

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) FY 2016 Annual Report



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Acknowledgements

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About This Report

This report covers the fifth grant period for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, including awards made in 2015 for the FY 2016 period (October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2016). The report summarizes the results obtained by the 378 SSVF grantees funded for FY 2016. It is intended to inform Congress and the public about the important work of these grantees in helping to prevent and end homelessness among our nation's Veterans. A full list of SSVF grantees operating during FY 2016 appears in Appendix 1.

This report uses data reported by grantees through local Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) and subsequently provided to VA via monthly uploads to the SSVF's HMIS data repository. Additional information was obtained from grantee quarterly reports and from surveys of SSVF program participants.

The rapid growth and evolution of the SSVF program and its data collection methods over the last year have made it impractical or unfeasible to present comparison data across all five years of the SSVF program in every instance. Where it is possible to do that, we have done so in this report.

Section 1 of this report provides national trends on general population homelessness and on Veteran homelessness specifically, followed by an overview of the SSVF program.

Section 2 provides a funding overview of the SSVF program's expenditures, grantee coverage, and households served in FY 2016, based on aggregated data from all 378 SSVF grantees. This section also describes the types and distribution of homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing services delivered.

Section 3 presents information about who was served in the fifth year of the program, including the housing status and living situation of participants when they entered the program, and their demographic characteristics.

Section 4 presents the results of the program, including the success rate of participants in securing or retaining permanent housing when they exited the program, as well as participants' gains in income, and their interaction with other key VA programs.

Section 5 summarizes grantees' progress in implementing new SSVF programs nationwide, and how VA supported grantees with early implementation and service delivery issues throughout the grant year, including targeting SSVF to those Veterans and their families who were the most in need, and in promoting rapid re-housing and prevention best practices .

Finally, **Section 6** discusses the next steps for the SSVF in improving outcomes, increasing community integration, and furthering collaboration with local coordinated entry systems, as well as in tracking progress toward effectively ending Veteran homelessness according to federally defined criteria and benchmarks.

Executive Summary

Homelessness among Veterans is a problem of national importance. Though Veterans constituted only 8 percent of the U.S. adult population in 2016, they made up 9 percent of the U.S. homeless adult population.^{1,2} In 2010, the President and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the federal government’s goal to end Veteran homelessness. Published by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), this goal was announced as part of our nation’s first plan to prevent and end homelessness, titled *Opening Doors*.³ It was under this important mandate that the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program began providing targeted housing assistance and services on October 1, 2011.⁴ In concert with other key resources for homeless Veterans, such as the jointly administered U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)–Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, SSVF has provided communities with the resources necessary to reduce the number of homeless Veterans by 47 percent between 2010 and 2016.⁵

One of the critical tools for ending homelessness among Veterans has been SSVF, which has grown significantly since its inception, and the growth of which corresponds with year-to-year decreases in Veteran homelessness. In the first year of the program (FY 2012), approximately \$60 million in SSVF funding was awarded to 85 grantees in 40 states and the District of Columbia. By FY 2016, approximately \$379 million in SSVF grant funding was awarded (on an annualized basis) to 378 grantees serving all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and three U.S. territories. Grantees funded in FY 2016 provided SSVF services in 387 of the 405 Continuums of Care (CoCs) nationwide. FY 2016 is the second year of VA’s supplemental three-year funding awards for 71 high-priority (“Priority 1”) communities with high concentrations of homeless Veterans, in an unprecedented “surge” effort to end Veteran homelessness in these communities. The total amount available for Priority 1 communities for the three-year period is \$289 million. At the time of this report’s publication,

¹ Source: Veterans Health Administration Support Service Center (FY 2016); United States Census Bureau (2016).

² Source: Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) 2016, Part 1.

³ The *Opening Doors* federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness was released in June 2010 by President Barack Obama. The plan includes the federal goal of ending chronic and Veteran homelessness. More information about this strategic plan can be found at the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness *Opening Doors* webpage: http://usich.gov/opening_doors/.

⁴ The SSVF program is authorized by 38 U.S.C. 2044. VA implements the program by regulations in 38 CFR part 62. SSVF funding award periods follow the federal fiscal year, which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30.

⁵ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, “Obama Administration Announces Nearly 50 Percent Decline in Veteran Homelessness” [Press Release], August 1, 2016, retrieved at http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16-117.

approximately \$393 million was budgeted in FY 2017 for 367 SSVF grantees (the annualized value of surge grants and other SSVF awards combined), providing services in 392 of 399 CoCs.

Priority 1 funding awards were contingent on support from local CoCs and VA Network Homeless Coordinators, to ensure strategic coordination of this critical one-time resource. Consistent with this targeted approach in priority communities, SSVF began a national community planning initiative that engaged all SSVF grantees in local efforts designed to develop locally responsive systems of care. VA supported these local planning efforts to include evidence-based practices emerging as critical interventions in ending homelessness among Veterans. The SSVF community planning initiative drew on lessons learned from VA's 2014 "25 Cities Initiative," launched to help CoCs establish and implement their coordinated entry and housing placement systems for homeless Veterans and persons who are chronically homeless. SSVF grantees have actively participated in the 25 Cities Initiative to help strategically coordinate SSVF resources with other community resources and initiatives intended to end Veteran homelessness.

VA focused its FY 2016 program implementation and support efforts on promoting consistency, quality, and effectiveness of SSVF services based on established and emerging evidence and leveraging the growing expertise of SSVF grantees. VA also diversified its technical assistance efforts this year by providing guidance and resources to support broader community coordination and planning, including creation of local leadership groups and development and refinement of community-specific plans designed to achieve the federal criteria and benchmarks for ending homelessness among Veterans.⁶ To support these efforts and more robust technical assistance, VA also provided new and updated data-informed tools, regional trainings, and a revamped web-based learning platform (SSVF University) to make resources more accessible.⁷

Since SSVF's inception in FY 2012, the program has served a cumulative total of 335,112 Veterans⁸ and increased the number of Veterans served, from 19,854 in FY 2012 to 96,401 in FY 2016. Sixty-six (66) percent of Veterans received rapid re-housing assistance over the five years, whereas 35 percent received homelessness prevention assistance. One (1) percent of Veterans received both assistance types during the five years of SSVF operations. SSVF continues to prioritize the delivery of services to currently homeless Veteran households,

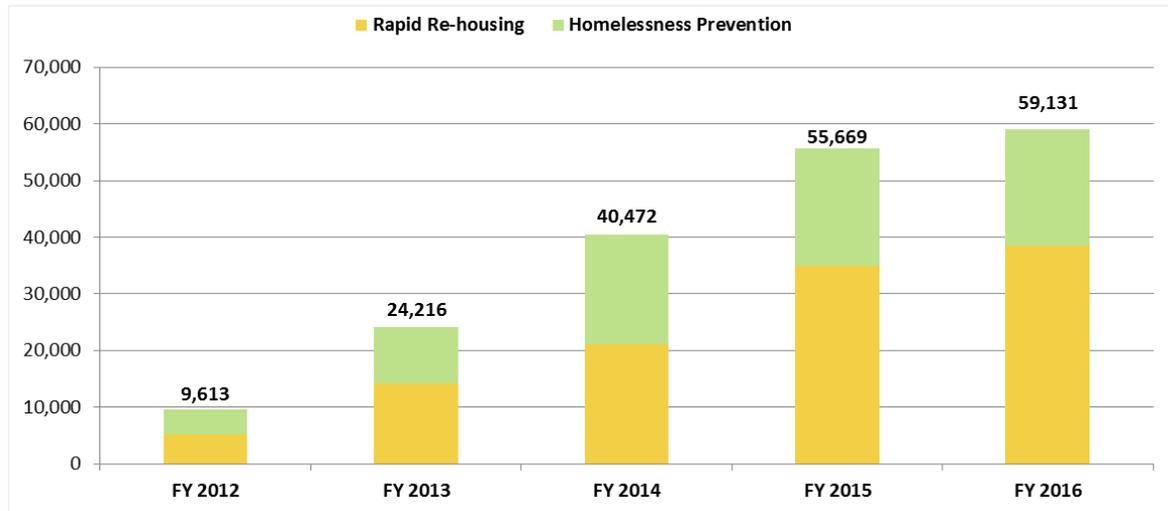
⁶ United State Interagency Council on Homelessness, *Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness*, retrieved September 25, 2017, <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/criteria-for-ending-veteran-homelessness>. These Community Plans are publically available online at www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.asp?page=/ssvf_university/community_coordination_and_plans.

⁷ VA, "SSVF University," retrieved November 30, 2017, http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.asp?page=/ssvf_university/

⁸ Across SSVF program years, it is not currently possible to un-duplicate service data. The "cumulative total" represents the sum of the Veterans served each program year.

with the percentage of Veterans receiving rapid re-housing assistance rising to 70 percent in FY 2016.

Exhibit ES.1: SSVF Veteran Exits to Permanent Housing (FYs 2012-2016)



SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

Over the first five years of the SSVF program, 237,664 Veterans exited, with 80 percent (189,100) successfully securing permanent housing.⁹ Each program year, the number of Veterans securing permanent housing at exit has increased—from 9,613 in FY 2012 to 59,131 by FY 2016.

Among Veterans exiting from SSVF homelessness prevention assistance, 88 percent exited to permanent housing after participating in SSVF services for an average of 97 days. Meanwhile, 75 percent of Veterans who were homeless and received rapid re-housing assistance exited to permanent housing, after participating for an average of 114 days.

Since its inception, SSVF’s rapid re-housing assistance has become a substantial component of the crisis response system for literally homeless Veterans. In FY 2016, the equivalent of 56 percent (67,953) of all sheltered homeless Veterans were assisted to exit homelessness by an SSVF rapid re-housing program.

⁹ Across SSVF program years, it is not currently possible to un-duplicate service data. The “cumulative total” represents the sum of the Veterans served each program year.

Key FY 2016 Findings and Results

- SSVF served 96,401 Veterans in FY 2016 and 152,531 persons overall. Seventy (70) percent of SSVF Veterans (67,953) participated in rapid re-housing services, 31 percent of Veterans (29,794) participated in homelessness prevention services, and 1 percent of Veterans (1,346) participated in both service types.
- The average length of participation in SSVF among the 72,074 Veterans who exited the program was less than four months (118 days). Of those, for Veterans exiting from SSVF rapid re-housing assistance, the average length of participation was also about four months (125 days), where it was about three months (102 days) for those who exited SSVF homelessness prevention.
- More than half (58 percent, or 55,793) of the 96,401 Veteran participants in the SSVF program had a disabling condition. By comparison, 53 percent of Veterans in shelters are disabled, indicating that SSVF is serving a complex population with high barriers to housing placement.
 - Of the 57,820 SSVF Veterans exiting the program who received health care services from the VA Health Administration, many reported being treated for serious health and mental health conditions, including cardiovascular disease (58 percent), a substance use disorder (53 percent), major depressive disorder (41 percent), and post-traumatic stress disorder (24 percent).
- SSVF served the highest proportions of women Veterans and Veterans who served in Afghanistan or Iraq of all VA homeless initiatives in FY 2016.
 - Thirteen percent (12,869) of SSVF Veterans were women.
 - Sixteen percent (15,848) of SSVF Veterans participants served in Afghanistan or Iraq.
- More than half (55 percent) of the 96,401 Veterans served by SSVF were members of minority racial groups compared with 51 percent of Veterans in shelters nationwide.
- More than one in five (22 percent, or 34,154) of all SSVF participants served were dependent children. SSVF provided support to help keep Veteran families together.
- The majority of Veterans (52 percent) served by SSVF were between the ages of 45 and 61.
- Nearly three quarters (74 percent, or 71,947) of the 97,512 Veteran households served earned less than 30 percent of the median income for their area and household size when they entered the SSVF program.¹⁰

¹⁰ The total number of households served can exceed the number of Veterans served, as SSVF grantees are allowed to continue services to non-Veteran households (typically including dependent children and a caregiver) that are created when the Veteran is separated from the household. New SSVF regulations

- Veterans with no income (20,690) and those earning \$1 to \$500 in monthly income at entry (7,729) still achieved a relatively high rate of success in obtaining or remaining in permanent housing at exit: 81 percent and 79 percent for each group, respectively.
- About one-quarter (26 percent) of Veterans with zero income at entry exited SSVF with some amount of monthly income (5,533). For Veterans entering SSVF with monthly incomes of \$1 to \$500 per month, a net 1,195 exited the program with higher incomes (+15 percent).
- Among the 2,766 participants completing satisfaction surveys, 88 percent said they would definitely recommend another Veteran or friend in need to their SSVF provider.

SSVF Rapid Re-Housing

- SSVF assisted a total of 67,953 literally homeless Veterans. Nationwide, the equivalent of 56 percent of all homeless sheltered Veterans received help from SSVF in exiting homelessness.
- Of the literally homeless Veterans who received rapid re-housing services, 48 percent were living in unsheltered situations (including outdoor and vehicle locations) at entry.
- Nearly four in five Veterans (78 percent) exiting SSVF rapid re-housing programs successfully ended their homelessness and moved into permanent housing (39,110).
- More than half (51 percent) of literally homeless Veterans who were assisted by SSVF to move into permanent housing were able to do so in 30 days or less; one-third (32 percent) were able to move in within two weeks. The average time from program entry to permanent housing for homeless Veterans who exited the program was 50 days.
- The average length of participation in SSVF rapid re-housing among the 50,219 Veterans who exited during FY 2016 was 125 days.

SSVF Homelessness Prevention

- SSVF assisted a total of 29,794 Veterans who were at risk of literal homelessness.
- Of the Veterans who received homelessness prevention services and entered the program from housed situations, 66 percent were in rental units and 21 percent were living with family or friends at entry.
- Nine out of every 10 Veterans (91 percent) exiting SSVF homelessness prevention assistance maintained their housing unit or found other permanent housing (20,838) and successfully avoided shelter or the streets.
- The average length of participation in SSVF homelessness prevention among the 22,929 who exited during FY 2016 was 102 days.

published on February 24, 2015, expanded the resources available to such non-Veteran households in the event of separation when it is the result of domestic violence.

Improvements in outcomes rely on capacity building and coordination across multiple providers and systems. SSVF has placed great emphasis on integrating its services with those of other community providers. Through SSVF's participation in local Homeless Management Information Systems and a requirement that grantees actively engage in community planning through coordinated entry, VA seeks to ensure that CoCs are developing data-driven plans to end homelessness among Veterans. SSVF involvement in CoC-based community planning fosters a consistent focus on the needs of homeless and at-risk Veterans.

Together with their community partners, VA and SSVF grantees are demonstrating that high-impact, successful interventions can help dramatically reduce homelessness and assist low-income Veteran families in avoiding or exiting homelessness and regaining housing stability.

1. Introduction

This is the fifth Annual Report of the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. The report describes the SSVF program and provides an overview of FY 2016 grantees (funds awarded through the FY 2015 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)) and their activities. The main focus of the report, however, is on the Veterans and their families who were assisted by SSVF programs. The report describes the demographics of SSVF program participants, their living situations prior to participation in SSVF, and their housing outcomes and connections to resources and mainstream benefits at exit, in order to support continued stability.

1.1 SSVF Overview

SSVF is designed to rapidly re-house homeless Veteran families and prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk due to a housing crisis. SSVF helps stabilize Veteran families, once their crisis is resolved, with short-term financial assistance, case management, and linkages to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and community-based services and housing assistance. SSVF success is dependent on the use of a Housing First approach. This proven model focuses on helping individuals and families access and sustain permanent rental housing as quickly as possible and without precondition, while facilitating access to needed health care, employment, legal services, and other supports to sustain permanent housing and improves their quality of life. This broad range of services are offered both to address barriers to housing placement and to sustain Veteran families in housing once the presenting housing crisis has been addressed.

SSVF is also different from some other VA programs in that it provides services to the entire family, not just the Veteran. Eligible program participants may be single Veterans or families in which the head of household, or the spouse of the head of household, is a Veteran. This capability allows SSVF to provide assistance to family members that can aid the Veteran's entire household. For instance, SSVF can help a Veteran's disabled partner gain employment and/or benefits, bringing additional income into the household. Similarly, children can be linked to needed child care services that allow parents to seek and keep employment. Such assistance to family members can be vital in resolving a Veteran's housing crisis, helps keep families intact, and prevents the traumatization and long-term consequences associated with youth homelessness.

To be eligible for SSVF, Veteran families must have low incomes and be either homeless or imminently at risk of homelessness. Additionally, SSVF prioritizes assistance for certain target populations. For grants awarded in FY 2016, these priorities were the following:

- Veteran families earning less than 30 percent of area median income
- Veterans with at least one dependent family member
- Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan

- Veteran families located in a community not currently served by an SSVF grantee¹¹
- Veteran families located in a community where the current level of SSVF services is not sufficient to meet demand of currently homeless Veteran families¹²
- Veteran families located in rural areas or on Indian tribal property

SSVF grantees assist participants by providing a range of supportive services designed to resolve the immediate housing crisis and promote housing stability. Grantees are required to provide the following supportive services to Veteran families:

- Outreach services
- Case management services
- Assistance in obtaining VA benefits: assistance in obtaining any benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs that the Veteran may be eligible to receive, including, but not limited to, vocational and rehabilitation counseling, employment and training service, educational assistance, and health care services
- Assistance in obtaining and coordinating the provision of other public benefits available in the grantee's area or community, including
 - Health care services (including obtaining health insurance)
 - Daily living services
 - Personal financial planning
 - Transportation services
 - Income-support services
 - Fiduciary and representative payee services
 - Legal services to assist the Veteran family with issues that interfere with the family's ability to obtain or retain housing or supportive services
 - Child care
 - Housing counseling
 - Other services necessary for maintaining independent living

In addition to the required supportive services, SSVF emphasizes housing stabilization and helping participants develop a plan for preventing future housing instability. Grantees may also assist participants by providing Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), including rental assistance, security or utility deposits, moving costs, or emergency supplies. TFA is paid

¹¹ This priority defines *community* using the Continuum of Care geography, as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

¹² As defined by HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) Program, at a Category 2 and 3 level.

directly to a third party on behalf of a participant for rental assistance, utility fee payment assistance, security or utility deposits, moving costs, child care, transportation, emergency supplies, emergency housing, and general housing assistance, as necessary and within program limits. All grantees have incorporated TFA into their available services.

1.2 Impact on National Trends

On a single night in January 2016, HUD counted 39,471 homeless Veterans in the United States, a decrease of 47 percent since 2010.¹³ Between October 1, 2014, and September 30, 2015, HUD estimated that 1 out of every 170 Veterans nationwide (an estimated 132,847 Veterans) stayed in an emergency shelter or a transitional housing program—an 11 percent decrease since 2009.¹⁴

SSVF has been a critical resource for helping to re-tool local homelessness crisis response systems to better meet the needs of Veterans in crisis. Following evidence-based practices, SSVF assistance is focused on needs directly related to ending a Veteran family's homelessness, or preventing it when a Veteran family is at imminent risk of becoming homeless. SSVF grantees employ Housing First approaches to efficiently resolve housing crises, and they are expected to actively participate in local coordinated entry systems established by Continuums of Care (CoCs). The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) states,

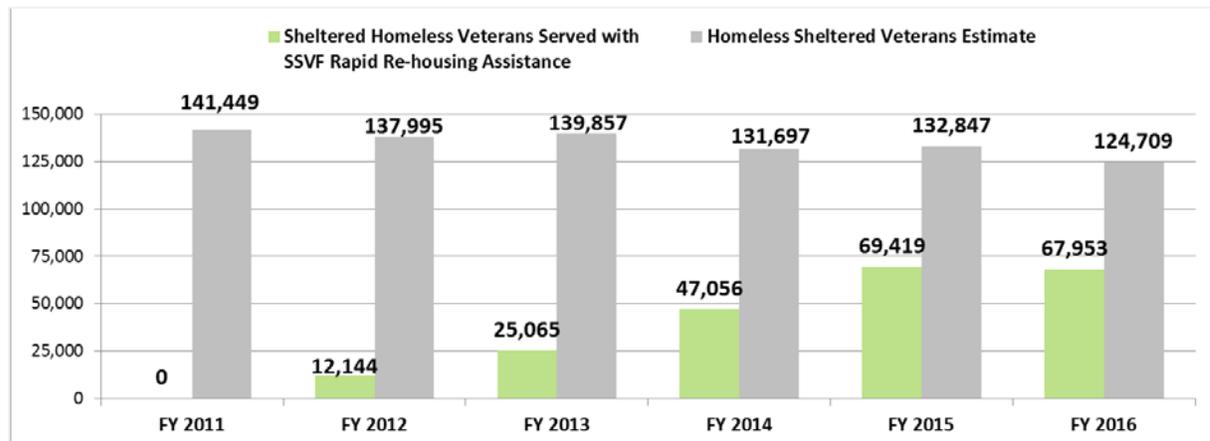
*The Housing First model differs from traditional models that require participants to complete a treatment program or otherwise demonstrate “housing readiness” before being given the opportunity to live in community-based permanent housing. ... Finishing the job of ending Veterans homelessness will require the widespread adoption of evidence-based best practices such as Housing First.*¹⁵

¹³ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, “Obama Administration Announces Nearly 50 Percent Decline in Veteran Homelessness” [Press Release], August 1, 2016, retrieved at http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16-117.

¹⁴ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress*, Part 2.

¹⁵ U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, *Ending Homelessness among Veterans: A Report by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness*, February 2013. Washington, DC: Author.

Exhibit 1.1: SSVF Rapid Re-housing and Annual Homeless Sheltered Veterans (FYs 2011-2016)



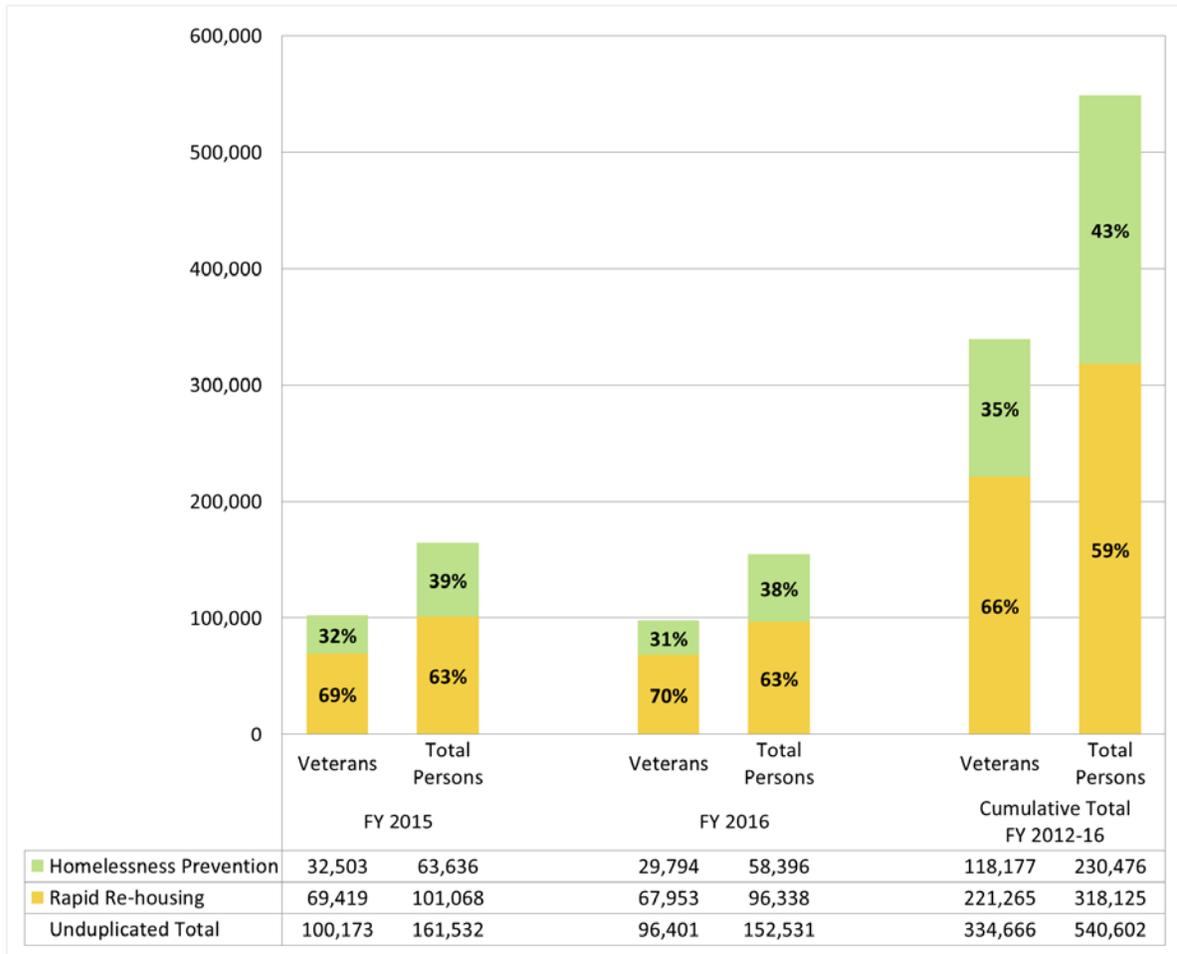
NOTE: AHAR Part 2 estimates include only sheltered homeless Veterans. Unsheltered Veterans who do not use shelter at any point during the year are not accounted for. However, this is believed to be a relatively small number of Veterans.

SOURCES: SSVF-HMIS Repository data; AHAR.

With each following year since its inception in FY 2012, SSVF rapid re-housing assistance has become a larger and more central part of the U.S. response to the needs of literally homeless Veterans. In FY 2012, the equivalent of 9 percent of all sheltered homeless Veterans (12,144) received help from SSVF rapid re-housing to exit homelessness. This doubled in FY 2013 to 18 percent (25,065), doubled again in FY 2014 to 36 percent (47,056), and rose in FY 2015 to the equivalent of 52 percent of all sheltered homeless Veterans (69,419).

In FY 2016, the equivalent of 56 percent of all homeless sheltered Veterans received help from SSVF in exiting homelessness (Exhibit 1.1).

Exhibit 1.2: SSVF Veterans and Total Persons Served, by Housing Assistance Type (FYs 2012-2016)



NOTES:

Within each program year, rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention data are unduplicated. Only a small percentage of persons, Veterans, and households received both types of housing assistance. Across program years, it is not currently possible to un-duplicate service data.

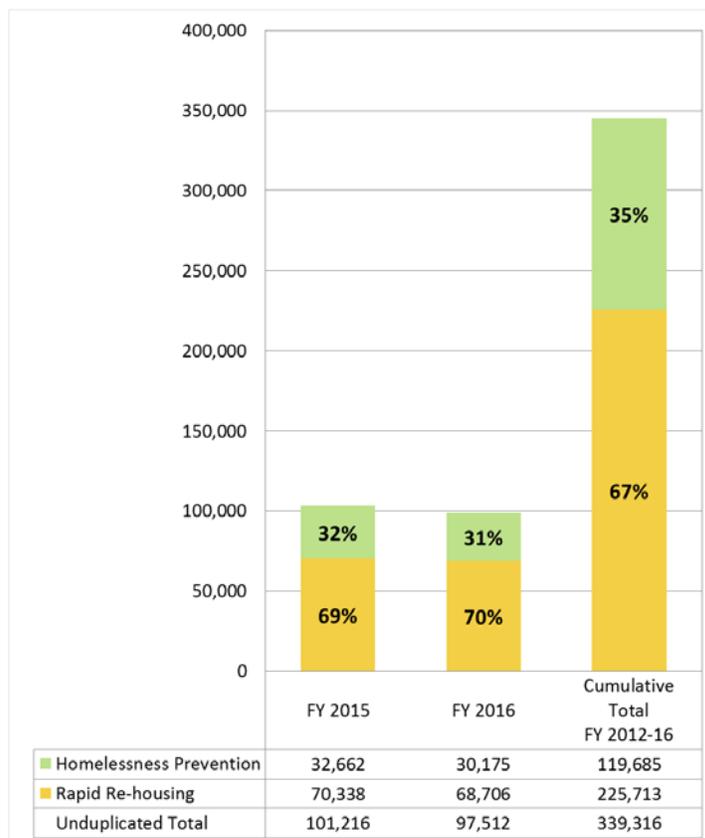
In FY 2016, 1 percent of Veterans (1,346) and 1 percent of total persons (2,203) received both homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assistance. This phenomenon occurs at similar levels in the prior four years. For this reason, the sum of homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assistance percentages sometimes exceeds 100 percent.

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

SSVF has played an increasing role in preventing and ending Veteran homelessness. As shown in Exhibit 1.32, almost a third (29 percent) of Veterans served by SSVF over the past five years were served during FY 2016.

Of the Veterans served in FY 2016, 67,953 (70 percent) were literally homeless at entry into SSVF, and received rapid re-housing assistance; the remaining 29,794 Veterans (31 percent) were imminently at risk of literal homelessness at program entry, and received homelessness prevention assistance. A total of 731 Veterans (1 percent) received both rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention assistance during FY 2016. The last year has seen the highest proportion of rapid re-housing assistance provided to Veterans compared with all prior years, as grantees and their community partners increasingly sought to maximize the use of SSVF to assist every homeless Veteran in quickly exiting homelessness to permanent housing.

Exhibit 1.3: SSVF Households Served, by Housing Assistance Type (FYs 2012-2016)



NOTE: Across SSVF program years, it is not currently possible to un-duplicate service data. The “cumulative total” represents the sum of the Veterans served each program year.

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

SSVF assisted 97,512 Veteran households consisting of more than 152,000 people in this fifth year of program operations. Over the last year there were small decreases in the numbers of households (–5 percent), total persons (–6 percent), and Veterans (–4 percent)

served by SSVF. Although the number of participants declined, the number of persons successfully exiting SSVF into permanent housing increased by 3 percent, from 91,636 in FY 2015 to 94,539 in FY 2016.

In FY 2016, grantees provided rapid re-housing services to 68,706 homeless Veteran households comprising 96,338 persons, through partnerships with emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, street outreach, and other homeless assistance providers, as well as VA homeless services such as the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) and Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) programs. Grantees provided homelessness prevention assistance to 30,175 Veteran households consisting of 58,396 persons. A small number of households received both assistance types.

Over the last five years of the SSVF program, grantees assisted 339,316 households, consisting of 540,602 people. Sixty-seven (67) percent of SSVF households received rapid re-housing assistance over the five years, whereas 35 percent received homelessness prevention assistance. Two (2) percent of households received both assistance types.¹⁶

At the household level, SSVF has seen a modest shift in its resources from homelessness prevention to rapid re-housing over the last two years. In both FY 2015 and FY 2016, about 70 percent of Veteran households received rapid re-housing assistance, a trend that has driven the overall SSVF Veteran percentage receiving rapid re-housing since program inception up to 67 percent. About a third (31 percent) of FY 2016 SSVF households received homelessness prevention assistance, a decrease from 32 percent in FY 2015 and less than the cumulative SSVF total of 35 percent. One (1) percent of FY 2016 households received both rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention assistance, which was consistent all SSVF program years.

Households served with homelessness prevention assistance were more likely to have children, and a higher proportion of single Veterans were assisted with rapid re-housing; therefore, a lower percentage of persons received rapid re-housing compared with total households.

The average Veteran household size has remained fairly consistent across all five program years, ranging between 1.5 and 1.6 persons per household.

¹⁶ The total number of households served can exceed the number of Veterans served, as SSVF grantees are allowed to continue services to non-Veteran households (typically including dependent children and a caregiver) that are created when the Veteran is separated from the household. New SSVF regulations published on February 24, 2015, expanded the resources available to such non-Veteran households in the event of separation when it is the result of domestic violence.

2. SSVF Funding Overview

This section provides an overview of SSVF grant awards, expenditures, and assistance provided by grantees to serve Veterans and their families. The data provided in this section are aggregated from the FY 2016 quarterly financial and narrative reports submitted by grantees to VA.

2.1 SSVF Grant Funding

Exhibit 2.1: Growth in SSVF Geographic Coverage by Continuum of Care (FYs 2012-2017)

	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Geographies Served	40 states and District of Columbia	49 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico	50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands	50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam	50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam	50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam
CoCs Served (% of total CoCs)	Not available	261 (62%)	375 (89%)	400 (96%)	387 (96%) ^a	392 (98%) ^b
Grants	85	151	319	407 ^c	378 ^d	367 ^e
Households Served	21,111	39,930	79,547	101,216	97,512	Not available at time of publication
Funding Level	\$59,313,413* Actual Expenditures	\$99,043,780* Actual Expenditures	\$241,065,813* Actual Expenditures	\$373,346,267* Actual Expenditures	\$379,142,424* Actual Expenditures	\$393,000,000* Budgeted

* Grantees received extensions for some of their grant awards.

NOTES:

^a Primarily due to CoC mergers, by the beginning of FY 2016, there were a total of 405 CoCs, a reduction of 10 from the beginning of FY 2015. Those mergers continued in FY 2017, reducing the total number of CoCs to 399.

^b See note a.

^c Funding for FY 2015 grantees has been released in two phases. The first set of grantees began serving Veteran households on October 1, 2014, and consisted of 378 grantees, including surge funding for 56 of 78 high-priority communities. The second set of FY 2015 grantees started serving clients on April 1, 2015. That set included surge funding for 24 grantees in 15 high-priority communities.

^d The reduction in SSVF grantees from FY 2015 through FY 2017 was primarily a result of contract consolidations. There was no overall reduction in the scope and scale of SSVF assistance to Veterans as a result of these consolidations.

^e See note d.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

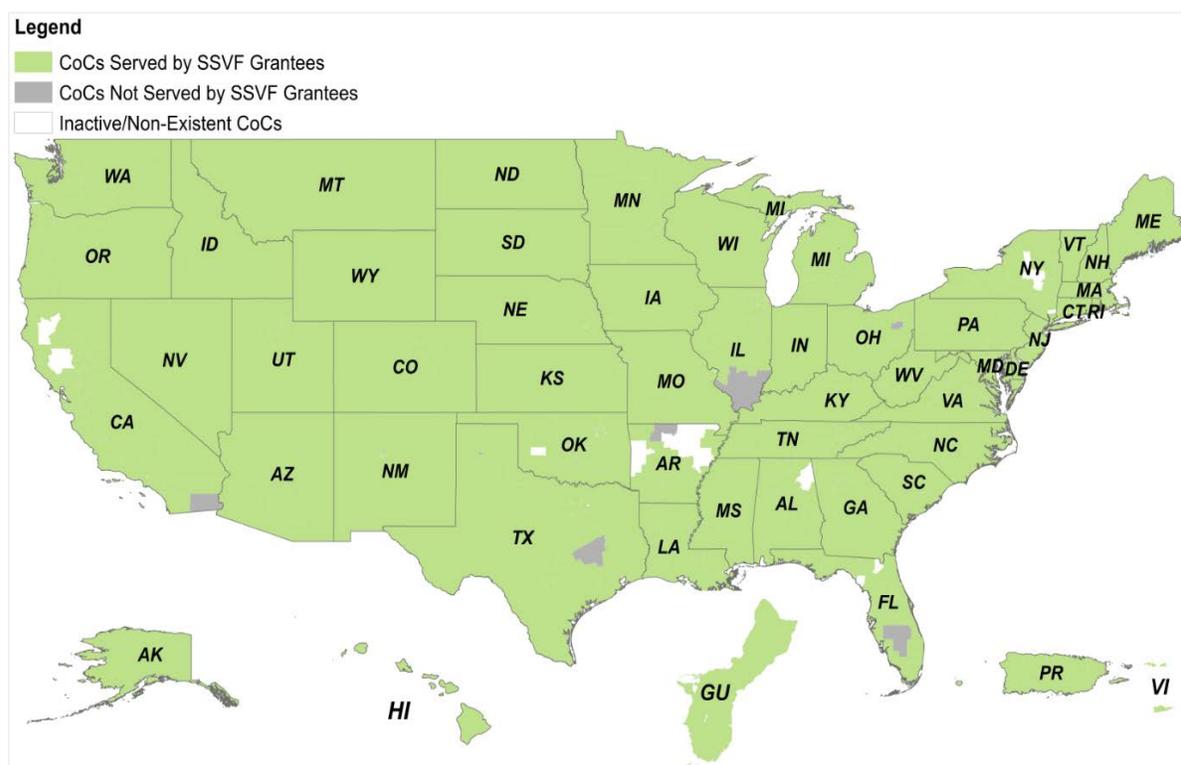
Section 2: SSVF Funding Overview

Although \$393 million in grant funding was available in FY 2016, VA estimates that approximately \$379 million was expended in FY 2016 to support grants to 383 grantees serving all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and three U.S. territories with CoCs. The \$14 million balance of funds was available for services in FY 2017. The average program cost was \$3,872 per SSVF household in FY 2016.

For full-year FY 2016 grantees, annual expenditures ranged in size from \$116,656 to \$6,772,140. The average expenditure size was some \$1 million (\$1,033,904) for those grantees. Overall, that represented a 345 percent increase in the number of grantees, with a 539 percent increase in expenditures over the first year of the program.

SSVF funding increases have led to a significant expansion of geographic coverage of grantees since the program's inception.

Exhibit 2.2: Geographic Coverage of SSVF Grantees (FY 2017)



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In FY 2012, there were SSVF programs operating in 40 states and the District of Columbia. By FY 2015, grantee coverage expanded to include all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. In FY 2016 and FY 2017 (FY 2016 NOFA awards), SSVF maintained its comprehensive national coverage. By FY 2017, 98 percent of CoCs were covered by SSVF grantees.

2.2 Financial Expenditures

SSVF grantee underspending continued to decrease in FY 2016. By year's end, grantees reached 96 percent of their projected and activity-level budgets, compared with 89 percent at the end of FY 2015, and 72 percent at the end of FY 2014.

Of 378 total grantees in FY 2016, 286 were eligible for 60-day extensions (as the remainder were Priority 1 grantees with a three-year budget) to complete their grant agreements. Of those 286 grantees on year-to-end budgets, 52 requested grant extensions, with 99 percent of all awarded funds being expended by January 2017.

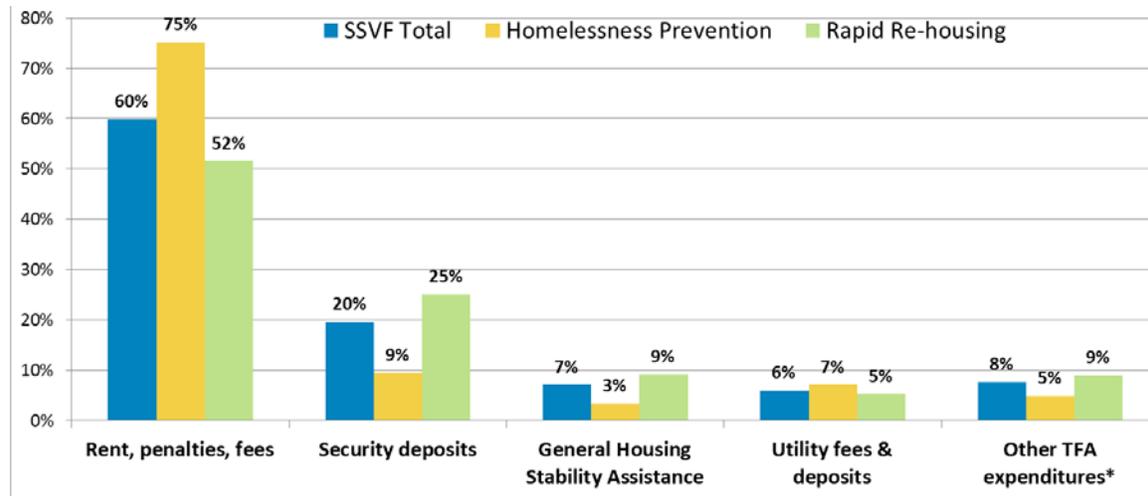
In FY 2016, SSVF grantees spent the largest share of award funds (59 percent) on staff and labor costs for case management, outreach, and program management; the second largest share was spent on TFA (31 percent).¹⁷

As established in the SSVF NOFA, grantees are not allowed to expend more than 50 percent of grant funds on TFA. VA established this limit to ensure that program services would consist of more than emergency financial aid, and that Veterans would receive assistance designed to sustain housing once their immediate homelessness or imminent risk of homelessness was resolved. Because SSVF interventions are generally brief (the average intervention was 118 days), providers are expected to develop housing stability plans that may include ongoing VA and/or community services after exit from SSVF, to help Veteran households sustain their housing beyond the short-term intervention and the potential financial assistance SSVF offers. Just 9 percent of grantee expenditures were used for administrative costs.

¹⁷ Due to limitations of data on program expenses, the information in this paragraph includes some FY 2016 grantee expenditure extension funds beyond the end of the FY 2016 program year, which ended on September 30, 2016.

2.3 Temporary Financial Assistance

Exhibit 2.3: TFA Expenditures, by Type (FY 2016)



* Other TFA expenditures include transportation, emergency housing assistance, moving costs, child care, and other costs.

NOTE: This exhibit excludes surge grantee TFA data for FY 2016 due to limitations in the financial reporting system.

SOURCE: SSVF-financial reports.

In FY 2016, rent-related assistance was the largest TFA category for both assistance types, consisting of 75 percent of homelessness prevention TFA and 52 percent of rapid re-housing TFA. Security deposit assistance made up the second largest TFA expenditure, at 9 percent of homelessness prevention TFA and 25 percent of rapid re-housing TFA. Because Veteran households served with homelessness prevention assistance often maintained their residence at entry, their need for security deposit assistance was lower than for rapid re-housing assisted households.

Similarly, rapid re-housing households were more likely to need general housing stability assistance because that TFA funding provides for expenses associated with moving into or securing permanent housing, items necessary for life or safety provided on a temporary basis to address an emergency, and expenses associated with gaining or keeping employment. Nine (9) percent of rapid re-housing TFA funds went to general housing stability assistance, compared with only 3 percent of homelessness prevention TFA.

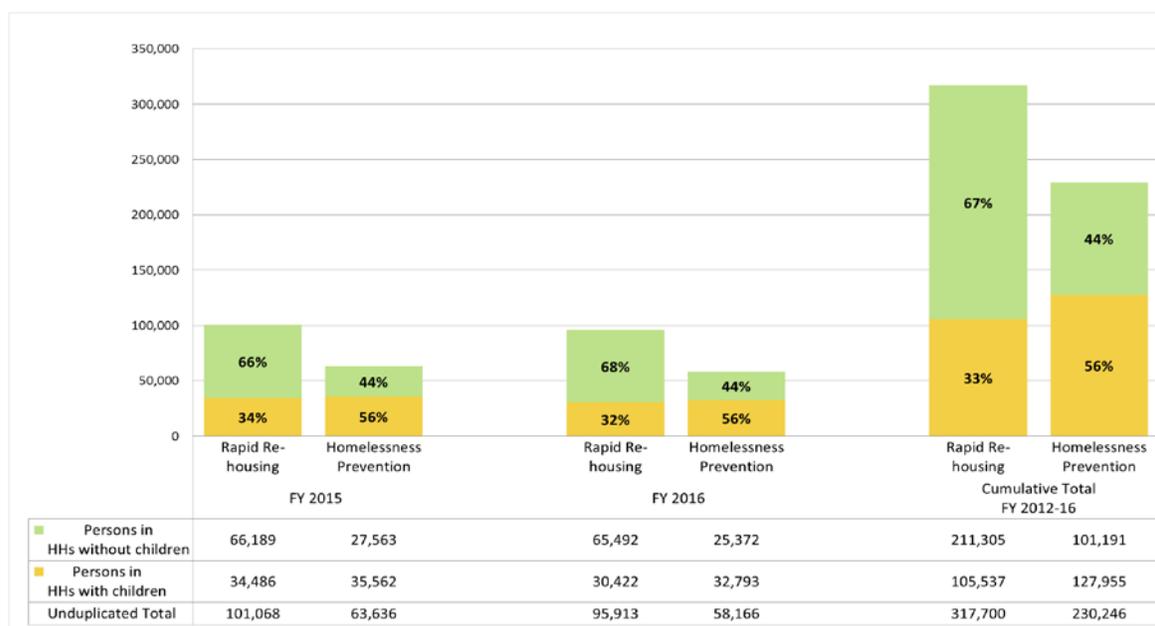
There was little difference in the distribution of utility fee and deposit TFA percentages among homelessness prevention (7 percent) and rapid re-housing assistance (5 percent) types.

3. SSVF Participants and Their Characteristics

This section describes SSVF participants and their demographic characteristics, including their household type, age, race, disability status, and prior living situations. In addition, enrollment levels for target populations from FY 2016 awarded grants are examined.

3.1 Overview of Persons and Household Types Served

Exhibit 3.1: SSVF Persons Served, by Household Type (FYs 2012-2016)



NOTES:

Less than 1 percent of persons were in both household types or were in households of unknown type. Persons in households of unknown type are not shown in the exhibit.

The total number of households served can exceed the number of Veterans served, as SSVF grantees are allowed to continue services to non-Veteran households (typically including dependent children and a caregiver) that are created when the Veteran is separated from the household. New SSVF regulations published on February 24, 2015, expanded the resources available to such non-Veteran households in the event of separation when it is the result of domestic violence.

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

Since the program’s inception, most persons in households (HHs) without children (67 percent, or 211,305) assisted by SSVF have been literally homeless and received rapid re-housing assistance, whereas most persons in households with children (56 percent, or 127,955) served by SSVF have been at risk and received homelessness prevention assistance. FY 2016 household utilization rates between rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention match the cumulative utilization patterns over the life of the program.

3.2 Target Populations

Grantees reported the number of households served according to VA's target population priorities for FY 2016 grantees. These included:

- Veteran households earning less than 30 percent of area median income
- Veterans with at least one dependent family member
- Households with one or more female Veterans
- Returning Veterans from Afghanistan or Iraq

Across all grantees, approximately 74 percent of households served were reported to have incomes less than 30 percent of area median income (AMI) for their household size at program entry. About one-fifth (18 percent, or 17,315) Veteran households served by SSVF had at least one dependent child (under age 18 at program entry), including 34,134 children (22 percent of all participants). Additionally, 16 percent of SSVF Veterans served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

These figures indicate that the program met its goals in targeting very low-income Veteran families, Veteran families with dependents, and those who served in Afghanistan and Iraq.



Angela Walk served our country as a Navy Jet Engine Mechanic from 1990 to 1993, after which she was honorably discharged. Post-Navy, she earned her degree and worked as an accountant for 14 years.

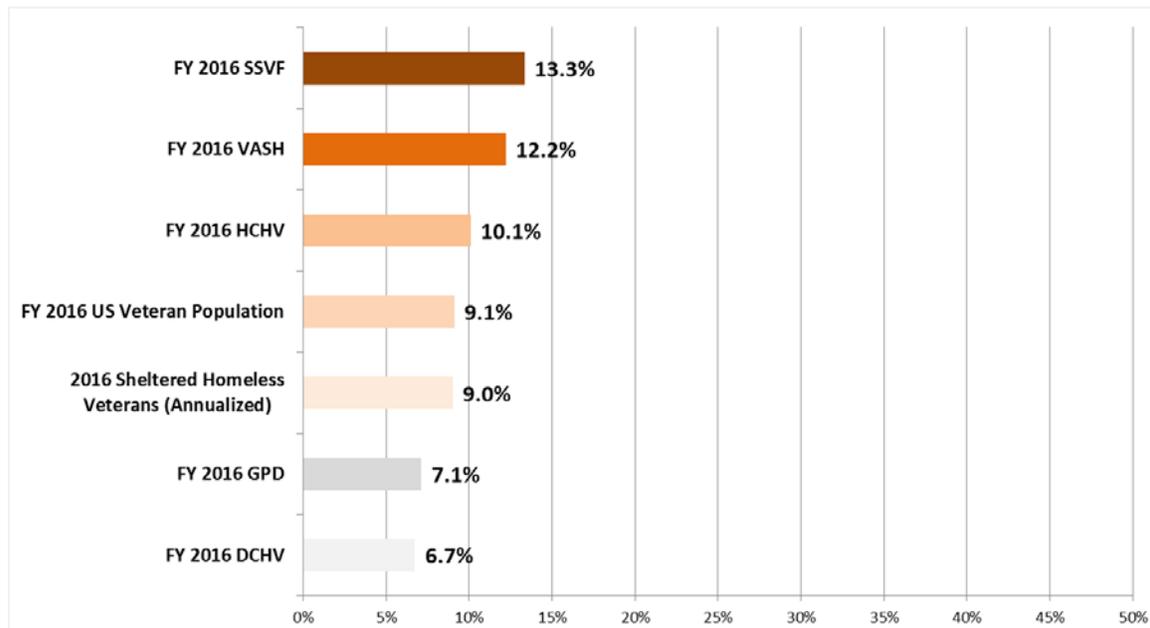
In February 2017, Ms. Walk's employer downsized several positions, leading to her job loss. Compounding that, that same month, a car accident exacerbated her existing knee injury and rendered her car unusable. During that period, she was also taking care of her mother, who had a debilitating illness. Those circumstances put Ms. Walk into a position where she could no longer cover rent and monthly expenses. In addition to concerns about her own future and the status of her housing, she also worried about her ability to provide much needed support to her mother.

Ms. Walk's situation began to improve when she contacted the Catholic Charities SSVF program. Upon enrollment in SSVF's homelessness prevention program, program funds were used to take care of the rental arrears that stood between her and homelessness. Over the ensuing months, rental assistance and case management helped the Veteran restore her sense of stability. Those assistance efforts rekindled Ms. Walk's desire to improve her health and she submerged herself into an exercise and nutrition program at VA. Additionally, SSVF staff helped her to obtain a free vehicle via a local charity. Today, she is employed and enjoying her regained mobility. She envisions a bright and rewarding future.

CLIENT SUCCESS STORIES

Section 3: SSVF Participants and Their Characteristics

Exhibit 3.2: Percentage of Women Veterans Among Veteran Populations (FY 2016)



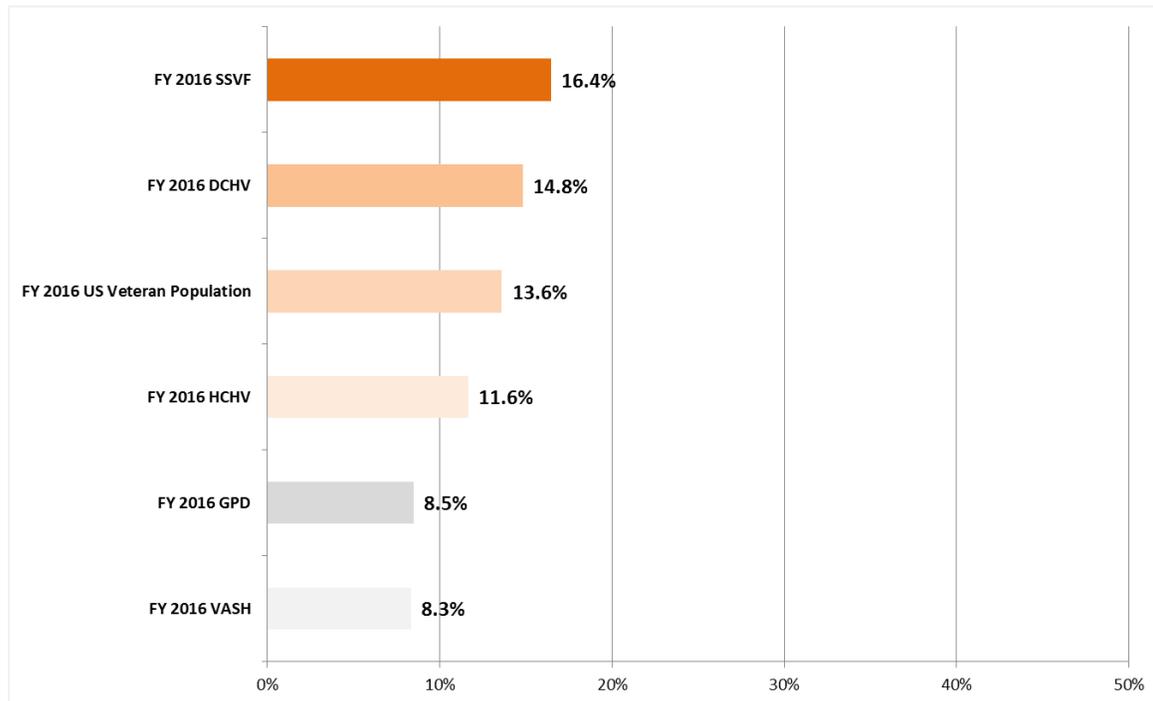
NOTE: Aside from SSVF, there are four other national VA homelessness programs included in this exhibit: HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program provides permanent supportive housing; Grant and Per Diem (GPD) is a transitional housing and safe haven residential assistance program; Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) programs include outreach, health care, and treatment and rehabilitative services, along with emergency shelter and safe haven residential assistance; and the Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) program provides residential rehabilitation and treatment services. Additional information about these homelessness programs can be found on VA's homelessness web page at: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/>.

SOURCES: SSVF-HMIS Repository data; VA Office of the Actuary; Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR); VA Homeless Management Evaluation System (HOMES).

SSVF has served the highest proportion of women of any VA homeless initiative for each of the past four years. This may be due, in part, to the greater number of households with children served with SSVF homelessness prevention assistance. Overall, 13 percent of Veterans served by SSVF in FY 2016 were women (12,869)—significantly higher than the percentage of female Veterans served nationally in shelter programs (9 percent).

Section 3: SSVF Participants and Their Characteristics

Exhibit 3.3: Percentage of Returning Veterans from Afghanistan or Iraq Among Veteran Populations (FY 2016)



NOTE: Aside from SSVF, there are four other national VA homelessness programs included in this exhibit: (1) HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program provides permanent supportive housing; Grant and Per Diem (GPD) is a transitional housing and safe haven residential assistance program; Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) programs include outreach, health care, and treatment and rehabilitative services, along with emergency shelter and safe haven residential assistance; and the Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) program provides residential rehabilitation and treatment services. Additional information about these homelessness programs can be found on VA's homelessness web page at: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/>.

SOURCES: SSVF-HMIS Repository data; VA Office of the Actuary; Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR); VA Homeless Management Evaluation System (HOMES).

In FY 2016, the SSVF program served 96,401 Veterans. Among these Veterans, 16 percent (15,848 Veterans) served in Iraq or Afghanistan and were Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), or Operation New Dawn (OND)—the highest proportion of OEF/OIF/OND Veterans served by any VA homeless initiative. Sixty-five (65) percent of those Veterans received rapid re-housing assistance, 36 percent used homelessness prevention assistance, and 1 percent used both assistance types. The availability of low-barrier access to services, due to SSVF's emphasis on Housing First, and availability of family-specific services may enhance SSVF's appeal to this group.

Related Research

SOURCE: S. Metraux et al. (2017). "Pathways into Homelessness Among Post-9/11-Era Veterans." *Psychological Services* 14 (2): 229-237. Retrieved from <http://psycnet.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Fser0000136>.

This study examined post 9/11-era Veterans' trajectories from military service to homelessness via 17 semi-structured interviews with Veterans in those situations. Five thematic areas were examined: (1) transitioning from military service to civilian life, relationships, and employment; (2) mental and behavioral health; (3) lifetime poverty; (4) adverse events; and (5) use of Veteran-specific service.

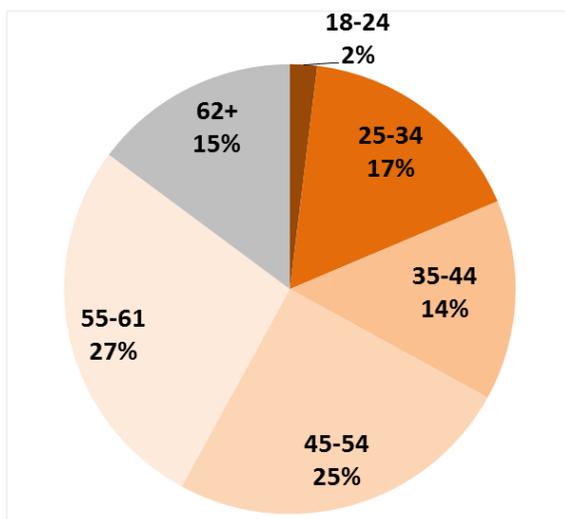
Most Veterans interviewed saw their homelessness as stemming from non-military, situational factors (e.g., job loss and failed relationships) rather than pathology-based factors, despite strong ties between homelessness and combat events that often led to clinical diagnoses.

Veterans' described challenges in accessing and navigating VA's system, and the resulting diminishment of the effectiveness of those VA services. However, some were quite appreciative of community-based organizations' efforts to broker those relationships.

Based on those interviews, the study's authors recommend that VA assess and, if necessary, revamp internal efforts to connect Veterans with its services. Additionally, the authors recommend expanding VA efforts to identify Veterans who are homeless or imminently at risk for homelessness for the provision of homelessness prevention or rapid re-housing services.

3.3 Participant Demographics

Exhibit 3.4: Veterans Served, by Age Group (FY 2016)



n=96,401

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

Section 3: SSVF Participants and Their Characteristics

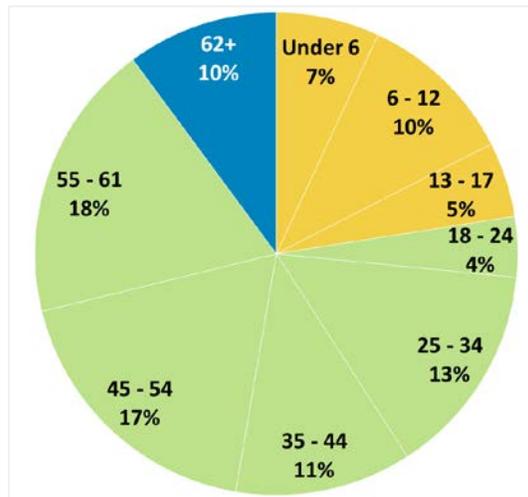
The majority of Veterans served by SSVF were between the ages of 45 and 61 (52 percent). At the younger end of the age spectrum, about one-fifth of Veterans served were age 34 or younger at program entry (19 percent). At the older end, about one-seventh of Veterans served were age 62 or above (15 percent) at program entry.

The distribution of Veterans served by SSVF grantees during FY 2016 closely reflects the latest national sheltered Veteran population data (FY 2016). Those similarities likely indicate that SSVF grantees' outreach strategies have successfully matched homeless and at-risk Veterans across all age groups with SSVF assistance.

SSVF Veterans in households without children were older than Veterans in households with children: a majority of Veterans (75 percent) in households without children were age 45 and older, whereas the majority of Veterans (69 percent) in households with children were between the ages of 25 and 44. At 44 percent, younger Veterans (ages 18-34) were three times as prevalent in SSVF households with children compared with households without children, at 14 percent.

Exhibit 3.5: SSVF Persons Served, by Age (FY 2016)

■ Children (<18) ■ Adults (18-61) ■ Seniors (62+)



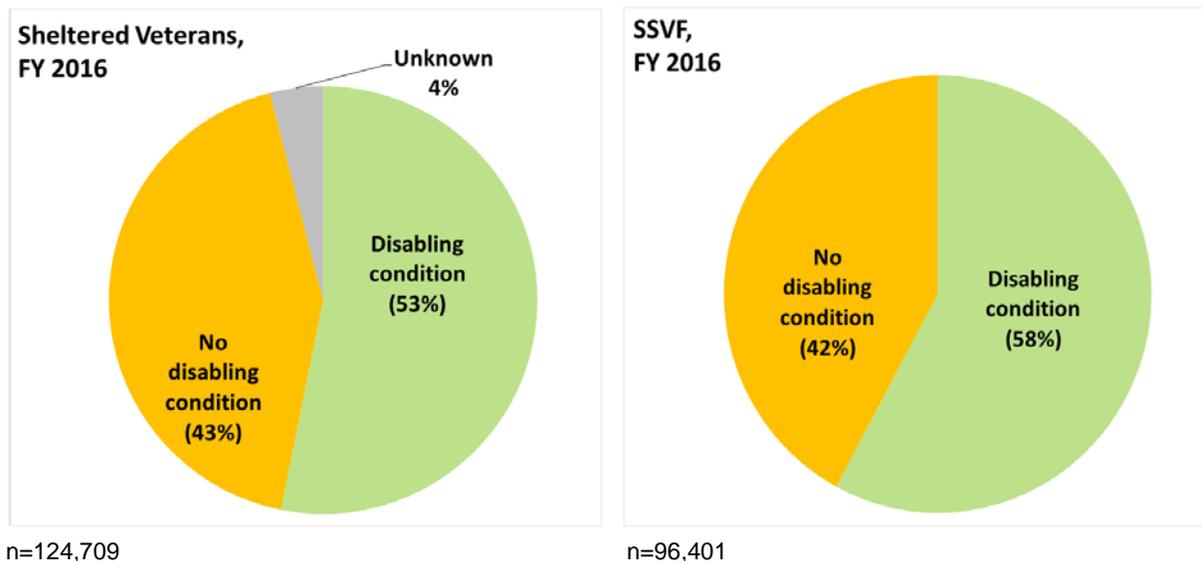
n=152,531

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

Participants served in FY 2016 were distributed broadly across every age group. Adult participants between the ages of 18 and 61 represented 63 percent of all participants served, whereas children under the age of 18 represented about one-fifth (21 percent) of those served. Children under the age of 13 were more common than teens in households with children. Persons between the ages of 18 and 24 were the least numerous of all SSVF program participants.

Section 3: SSVF Participants and Their Characteristics

Exhibit 3.7: Disability Status for SSVF Veterans (FY 2016)



NOTE: Due to the limitations in the SSVF-HMIS Repository reporting system for FY 2016, the percentages of Veterans with “No disabling condition,” “Don’t know,” “Refused,” and “Missing” were not available for inclusion in this exhibit. For that reason, “No disabling condition” SSVF Veterans shown in this exhibit is equivalent to the total Veterans served minus Veterans with “disabling conditions.” Additionally, the percentage total for “No disabling condition” presented in this exhibit includes an unknown percentage of “Don’t know,” “Refused,” and “Missing” responses. As such, the “No disabling condition” percentage is likely a slight overestimate. In FY 2014, only 1 percent of Veterans had “Don’t know,” “Refused,” or “Missing” responses.

SOURCES: (left) AHAR; (right) SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

More than half (58 percent, or 55,793) of all Veterans assisted through SSVF had a disabling condition.¹⁹ The disability rate for Veterans receiving rapid re-housing (59 percent) was higher than for Veterans receiving homelessness prevention (55 percent).

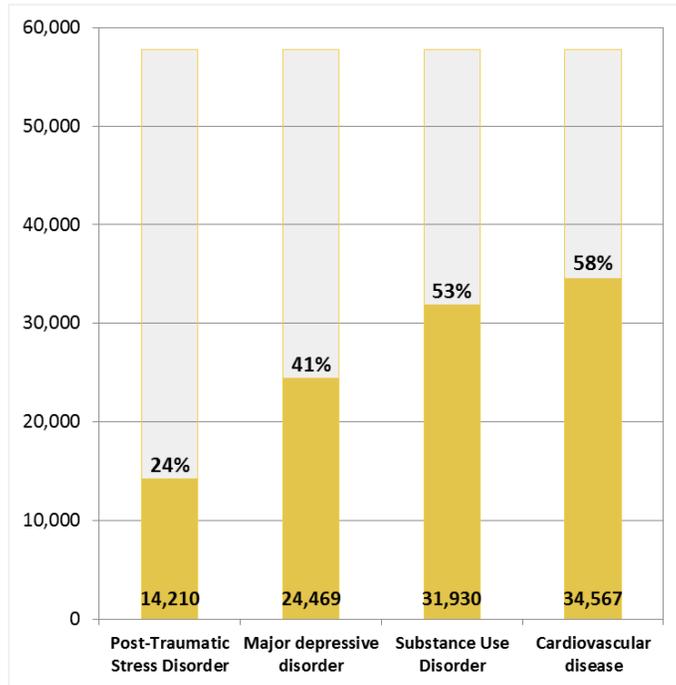
The disability rate for SSVF was 3 percentage points higher than that of all sheltered homeless Veterans (58 percent versus 53 percent). Among SSVF rapid re-housing Veterans, the disability rate was 6 percentage points higher than that of all sheltered homeless Veterans, which suggests that SSVF providers are targeting assistance to Veterans who may have greater barriers to obtaining housing without the re-housing assistance offered by SSVF. Overall, SSVF Veterans have disability rates twice that of the total U.S. Veteran

¹⁹ “People with one or more of the following conditions were identified as having a disabling condition: (1) the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any conditions arising from the etiological agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV); (2) a physical, mental, or emotional impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that is [a] expected to be of long-continued or of indefinite duration, [b] substantially impedes an individual’s ability to live independently, and [c] could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing conditions.; (3) a developmental disability as defined in Section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 15002); or (4) for Veterans, a disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act.” This definition comes from the 2014 HMIS Data Standards Revised Notice (May 2014), which was in effect for FY 2016 grantees entering disability condition data into HMIS.

Section 3: SSVF Participants and Their Characteristics

population (29 percent) and 4.5 times higher than the disability rate among the U.S. adult homeless population (13 percent).²⁰

Exhibit 3.8: Major Health Problems Among Veterans Exiting SSVF and Engaged with Veterans Health Administration (FY 2016)



n=57,820

SOURCE: Veterans Health Administration Support Service Center.

Exhibit 3.8 shows the major health problems found among Veterans who both exited SSVF during FY 2016 and received health care services from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). In FY 2016, Of the 72,074 Veterans who exited SSVF, 57,820 were documented to have received VHA services.

Three-fifths (58 percent) of these Veterans had a history of cardiovascular disease, 53 percent had a substance use disorder, 41 percent had a major depressive disorder, and 24 percent had post-traumatic stress disorder.

²⁰ HUD's AHAR 2016, Part 2.

Related Research

SOURCE: T. Byrne et al. (2017). "Comparing the Utilization and Cost of Health Services Between Veterans Experiencing Brief and Ongoing Episodes of Housing Instability." *Journal of Urban Health* 94 (1): 54-63. Retrieved from <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11524-016-0110-5>.

This study examined patterns of health care costs among 5,794 Veterans who experienced housing instability. It used inpatient and outpatient medical and behavioral health service utilization cost data from the VA health care system. Those costs were compared between Veterans who experienced brief versus ongoing episodes of housing instability.

The analysis found that average annual health care costs associated with Veterans experiencing ongoing housing instability were \$7,573 higher than those costs for their Veteran counterparts with brief housing instability, with the lion's share of the cost differential coming from inpatient costs (+\$4,788) rather than outpatient costs (+\$1,918).

The study's authors suggest that expanded efforts to identify Veterans experiencing housing instability and help them quickly regain stable housing could result in substantial reductions in health care costs for the VA health care system and would improve their health, economic, and social outcomes.

3.4 Prior Living Situations and System Coordination

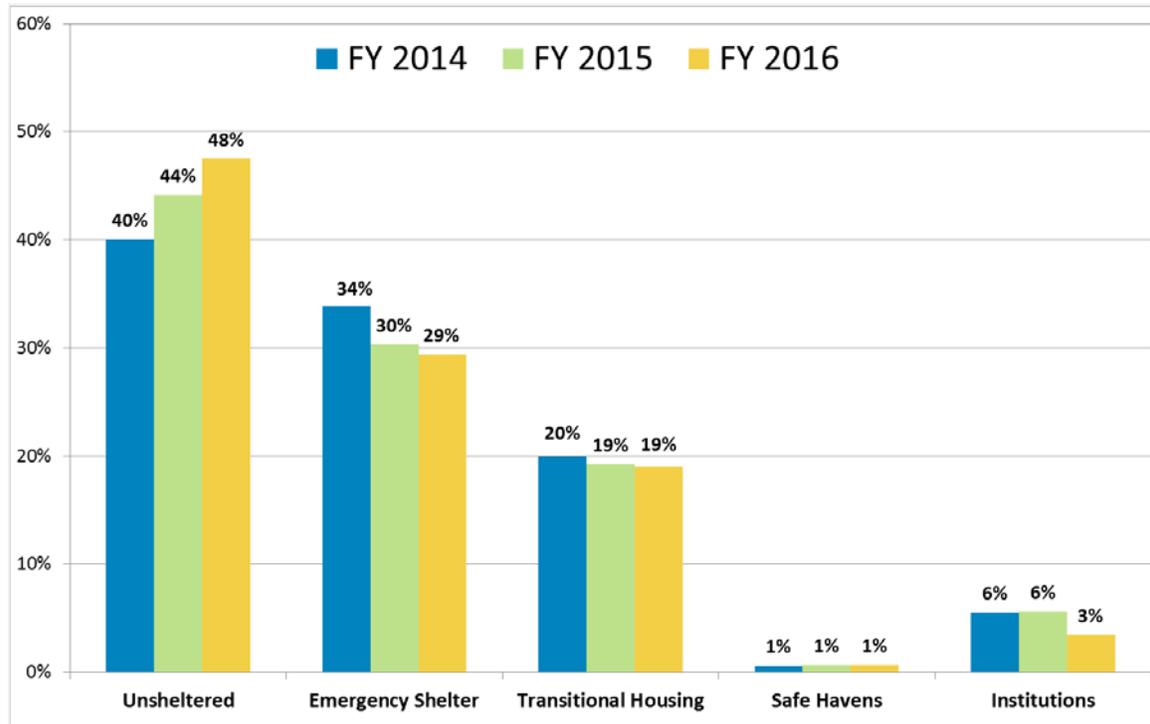
The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act amendment to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act mandates that Continuums of Care (CoCs) establish coordinated entry systems that feature a standardized access and assessment process for all participants, and a coordinated referral process for participants to receive prevention, emergency shelter, permanent housing, or other related homelessness assistance. Increasingly, stakeholders are using information regarding the movement of persons into and out of homelessness assistance programs and homelessness itself to drive coordinated entry system planning efforts by CoCs.

SSVF has placed great emphasis on integrating its services with those of other community providers. By requiring grantees to participate in local HMIS systems and to actively engage with community planning and coordinated entry systems, VA seeks to ensure that SSVF is integrated into local planning and systems to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of homeless Veterans. This integration fosters a consistent focus on the needs of homeless and at-risk Veterans.

The following two exhibits provide a window into the living situations of Veterans the night before being admitted into an SSVF program (i.e., "prior living situation"), as well as SSVF's increasing role relative to the crisis response system for homeless Veterans.

Section 3: SSVF Participants and Their Characteristics

Exhibit 3.9: Prior Living Situations of Veterans Receiving SSVF Rapid Re-housing Assistance (FYs 2014-2016)



NOTES:

This exhibit includes only Veterans who entered SSVF and received rapid re-housing from homeless situations. The datasets from FY 2014, FY 2015, and FY 2016 exclude 10,313, 14,548, and 6,266 Veterans, respectively, with erroneous or missing data, including Veterans with prior living situations marked as a permanent housing location, "Other" (e.g., missing or blank), "Don't know," or "Refused."

Additionally, some of the Veterans in this exhibit participated in SSVF during a prior year. Those Veterans' prior living situations may appear in more than one of the datasets, as they were active participants during multiple time periods. Those data are not de-duplicated between years.

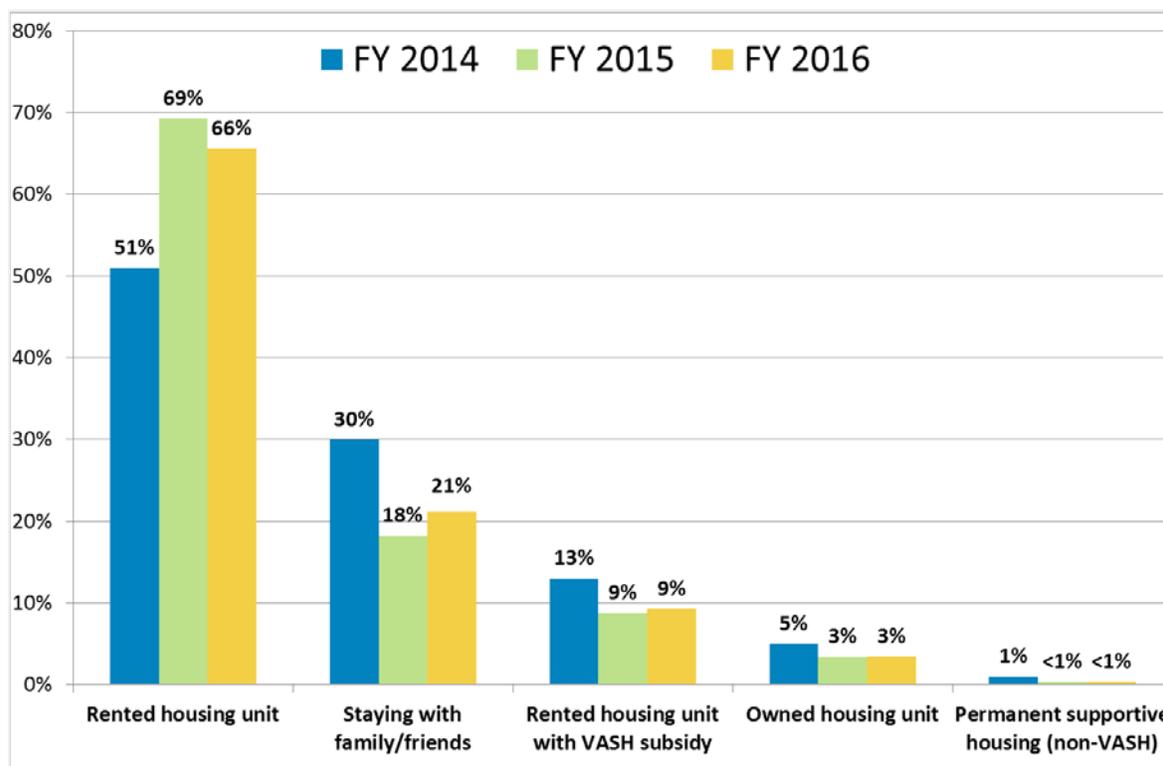
SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

Over the last three years, the largest proportion of Veterans who received rapid re-housing assistance from literally homeless situations came directly from unsheltered situations (including outdoor and vehicle locations). That proportion has risen from 40 percent in FY 2014 to 48 percent in FY 2016.

At the same time, the proportion of Veterans receiving rapid re-housing assistance from institutional settings and emergency shelter decreased, by 3 and 6 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, the proportions of rapid re-housing Veterans coming directly from transitional housing and safe haven programs saw little change.

Section 3: SSVF Participants and Their Characteristics

Exhibit 3.10: Prior Living Situations of Veterans Receiving SSVF Homelessness Prevention Assistance (FYs 2014-2016)



NOTE: This exhibit includes only Veterans who entered SSVF and received homelessness prevention assistance who were living in housing units at program entry, including those staying in housing units rented or owned by friends or family. These datasets exclude Veterans with prior living situations recorded as “Other,” “Client doesn’t know,” “Client refused,” participants who were erroneously coded as homeless, and those with missing data.

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

In FY 2016, the majority of Veterans (66 percent) assisted by SSVF homelessness prevention programs were residing in a rental housing unit at the time of program entry. Another 21 percent of these Veterans were staying in housing units owned or rented by family or friends. Nine (9) percent of Veterans entered the program while staying in a rental unit subsidized with a HUD-VASH voucher, which is a form of permanent supportive housing; whereas less than 1 percent were in a non-VASH permanent supportive housing unit at entry to SSVF homelessness prevention. The remaining 3 percent came from a housing unit that the household owned.

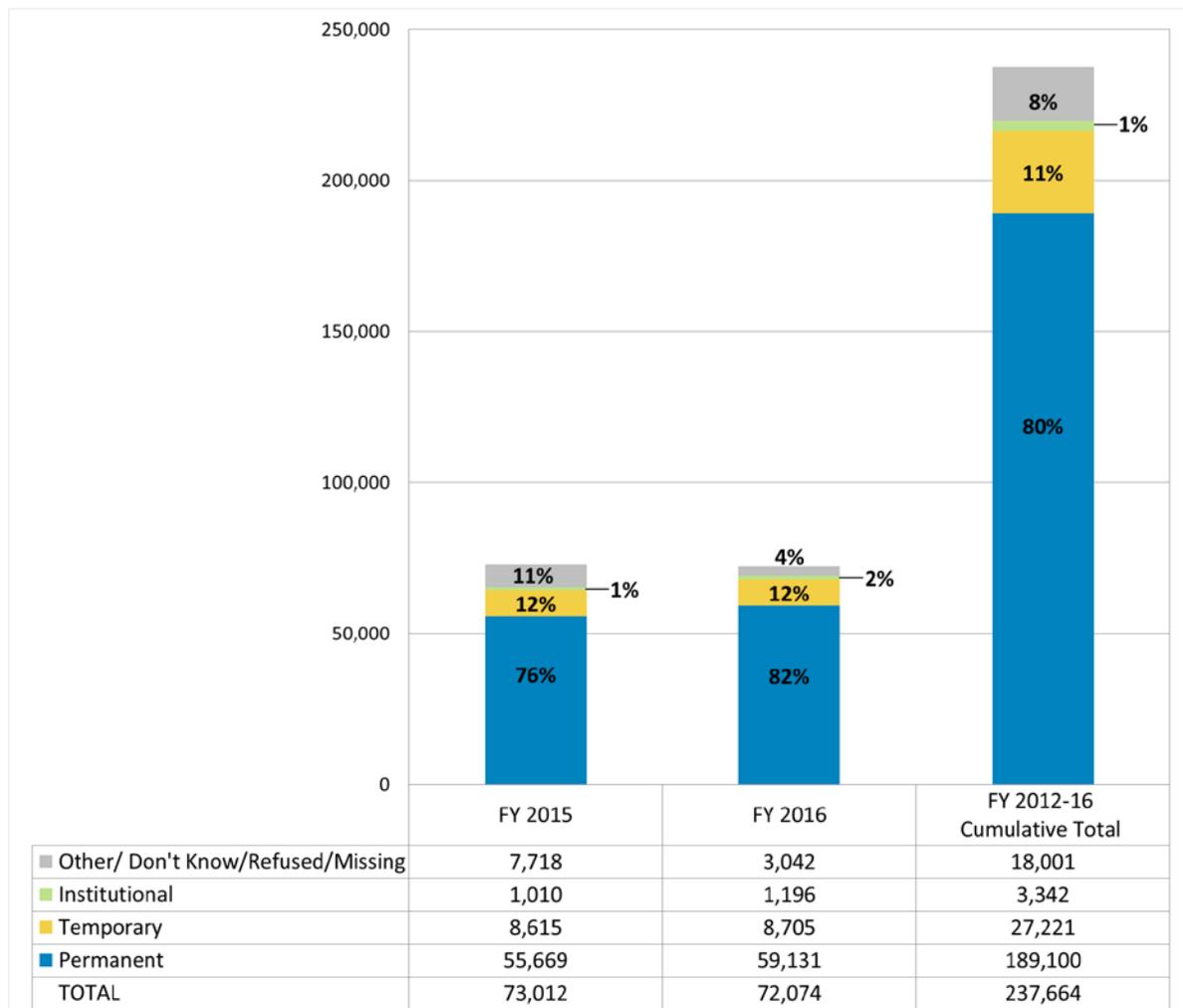
Over the last two years, Veteran homelessness prevention entries from rental housing units increased (+15 percent) while entries from Veterans staying with family or friends decreased (-9 percent). Additionally, there has been a slight decrease in the percentage of Veterans coming from rental units subsidized with a HUD-VASH voucher and housing units they owned since FY 2014.

4. SSVF Program Results

This section describes the outcomes participants achieved as a result of SSVF assistance. Key results tracked include housing outcomes, income changes, and participant satisfaction with SSVF assistance.

4.1 Housing Outcomes

Exhibit 4.1: Veteran Program Exits, by Housing Outcome (FYs 2012-2016)



SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

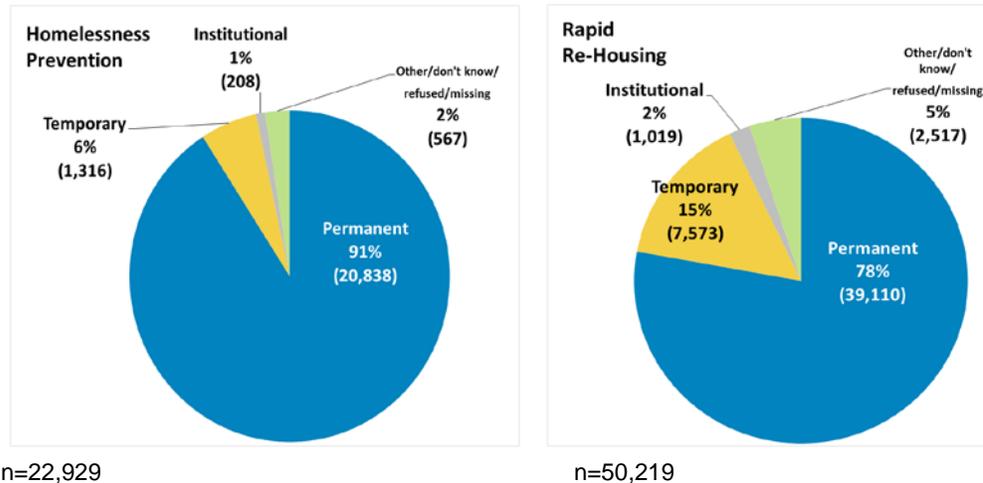
Since SSVF’s inception, 237,664 Veterans have exited SSVF, with 189,100 (80 percent) of them having successfully exited to permanent housing destinations.²¹ Of the 27,221 Veterans

²¹ Across SSVF program years, it is not currently possible to un-duplicate service data. The “cumulative total” represents the sum of the Veterans served each program year.

Section 4: SSVF Program Results

(11 percent) who exited to temporary destinations, 12,330 (5 percent of total) went to sheltered homelessness programs, 8,553 (4 percent of total) went to stay with friends or family temporarily, and 5,562 (2 percent) were reported to have exited to unsheltered locations. Just 1 percent (3,342) went to institutional destinations, including general hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, substance abuse treatment facilities, jail, or prison. The remaining 18,001 Veteran exiters (8 percent) went to unknown or other destinations.

Exhibit 4.2: Veteran Exits, by Housing Outcome and Assistance Type (FY 2016)



n=22,929

n=50,219

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

As shown in Exhibit 4.2, about almost all Veterans exiting SSVF homelessness prevention assistance maintained their housing unit or found other permanent housing (91 percent, or 20,838 Veterans). Meanwhile, nearly four-fifths of Veterans exiting SSVF rapid re-housing programs successfully ended their homelessness and moved into permanent housing (78 percent, or 39,110).

Of the 15 percent of rapid re-housing Veterans who exited to temporary destinations, 5 percent (2,304) are known to have exited into unsheltered homelessness situations. Likewise, of the 6 percent of homelessness prevention Veterans who exited to temporary destinations, less than 1 percent (93) exited to unsheltered homelessness situations. Four (4) percent of homelessness prevention and 3 percent of rapid re-housing Veterans went to temporary housing with family or friends. Though 7 percent of rapid re-housing Veterans exited to sheltered locations, only 1 percent of homelessness prevention Veterans exited to shelters.

Section 4: SSVF Program Results



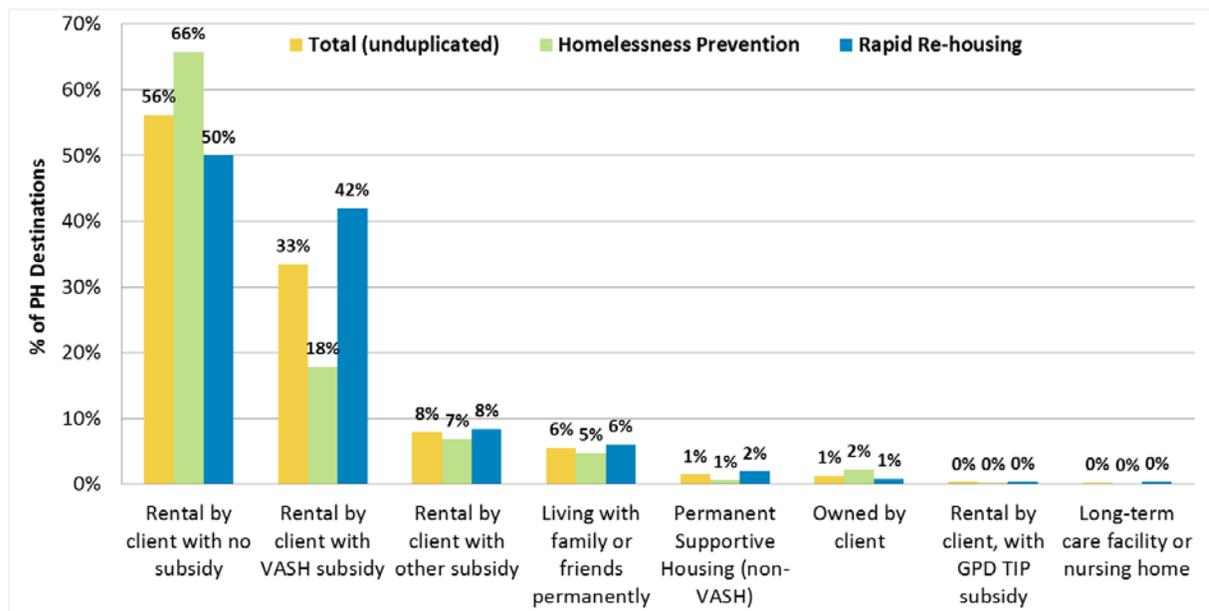
Dwayne Simmons is an Army Veteran who served in the Iraq War, where he suffered leg injuries during combat. At the time he came to UESF's SSVF program, Mr. Simmons was staying in a Coatesville, Pennsylvania, homeless shelter. Mr. Simmons wanted to exit the shelter system and return to his home city of Philadelphia.

Due to Mr. Simmons's injuries and post-traumatic stress, he required a secure home with disability access in a quiet, peaceful area. His low income and combat injuries made it difficult for him to find proper housing to suit his needs or to provide a security deposit.

Mr. Simmons's UESF case manager was able to find him peaceful, accommodating housing in Philadelphia in less than a month of his intake. SSVF provided Mr. Simmons with the security deposit and first month's rent so he could move into his home immediately. The program's housing specialist assisted him in picking out a bed, bedding, a kitchen table, and utensils. Additionally, the specialist was able to secure a sofa, dresser, and bookshelves for his new home through a local furniture bank. Today, Mr. Simmons lives in his own fully furnished apartment, is up to date on his rent, and is happy to live in a quiet home.

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Exhibit 4.3: Permanent Housing Destinations of Veteran Permanent Housing Exiters (FY 2016)



n=59,131

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

There was a significant increase in SSVF placements that included use of HUD-VASH vouchers. Speculation on factors that have contributed to this increase includes the following:

- As the number of homeless Veterans decline, those remaining tend to have higher needs. This may be reflected by the increasing rates in disability, rising from 51 percent in FY 2015 to 58 percent in FY 2016.
- The sharp reduction in homelessness among Veterans has meant that relatively more resources could be used to assist those with relatively greater needs.
- Limited available affordable housing stock has made it more difficult to recruit landlords willing to accept the short-term subsidies provided by SSVF when longer-term subsidies are available through HUD-VASH for Veterans.

Among all Veterans who successfully exited to permanent housing in FY 2016, more than half (56 percent) were in unsubsidized rental housing at program exit. One-quarter of Veterans with a successful exit (25 percent) remained in or moved to a rental unit with a HUD-VASH subsidy. Housing units with other housing subsidy programs accounted for 7 percent of permanent housing exits. Only 4 percent exited SSVF to live permanently with family or friends. All four other permanent housing destinations accounted for less than 4 percent of these exits, including owned by client (2 percent), non-VASH permanent supportive housing (1 percent), rental by client with VA Grant and Per Diem Transition in Place subsidy (0.3 percent), and long-term care facility or nursing home (0.2 percent).

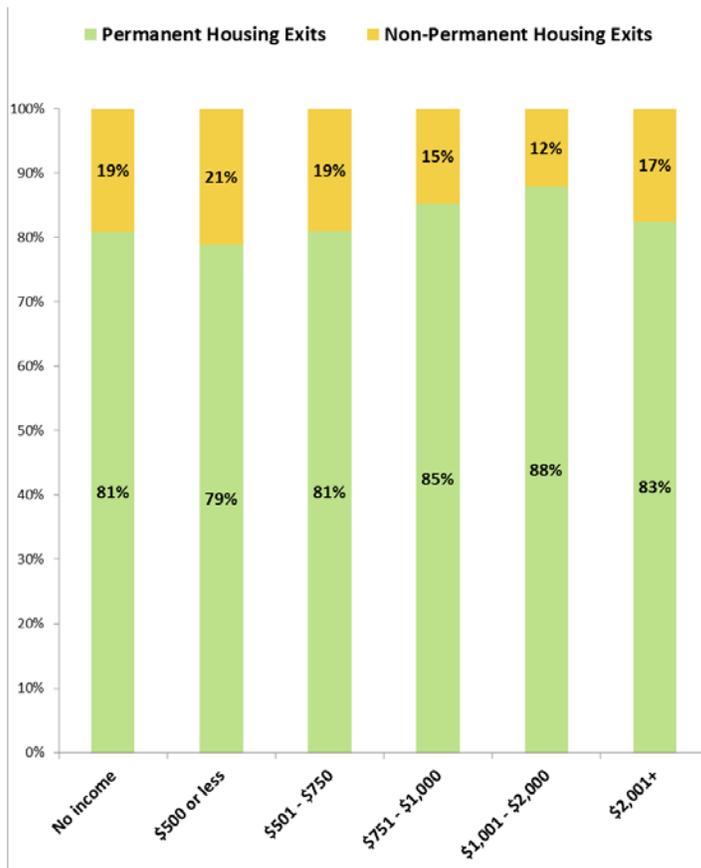
There were key housing destination differences between rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention, but these were consistent with the expectation that Veterans who become homeless often have greater long-term service needs than Veterans able to avoid homelessness. As shown in Exhibit 4.4, 66 percent of Veterans who received homelessness prevention assistance successfully moved to or retained unsubsidized rental housing, compared with 50 percent of Veterans exiting rapid re-housing to permanent housing. By nearly the same differential, 42 percent of Veterans who successfully exited from rapid re-housing went to a rental unit with a HUD-VASH subsidy, compared with just 18 percent of those Veterans who received homelessness prevention support.

Related Research

SOURCE: M. Fernald et al. (2017). *The State of the Nation's Housing: 2017*. Cambridge, MA: Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. Retrieved from http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/jchs.harvard.edu/files/harvard_jchs_state_of_the_nations_housing_2017.pdf.

The historically high growth in rental housing demand across a broad cross-section of U.S. households over the last 12 years has resulted in higher rents and low vacancy rates. By 2016, the nation's rental vacancy rate slipped to a 30-year low (6.9 percent). This trend has made it increasingly difficult for Veterans, both with and without rental assistance, to locate affordable housing.

Exhibit 4.4: Permanent Housing Success Rates by Monthly Income at Program Entry Among Veterans Served, Including VASH Exits (FY 2016)



n=72,074

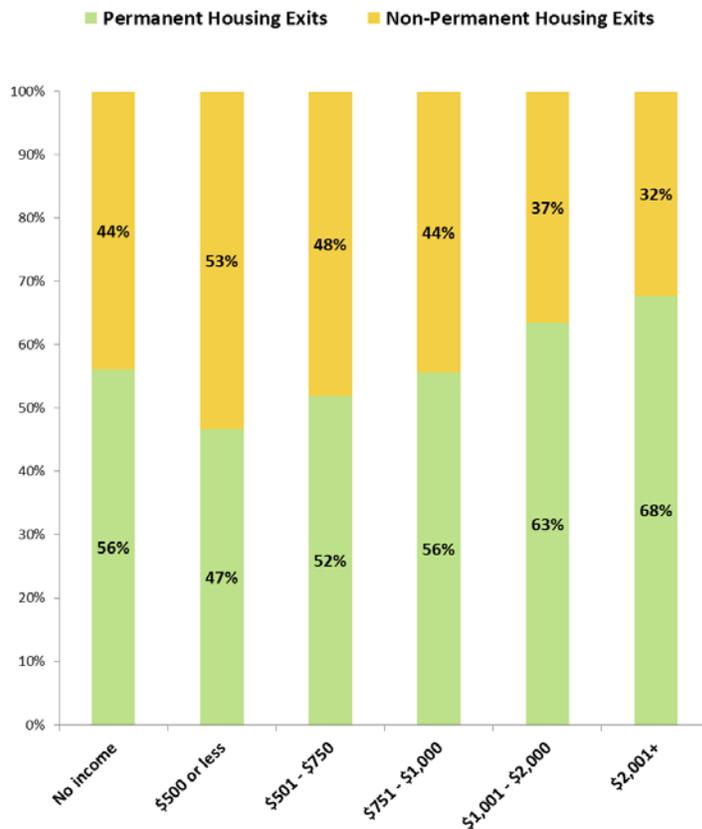
NOTE: Data are for Veterans who exited SSVF programs and do not include income changes experienced by other non-Veteran household members.

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

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In full alignment with the Opening Doors strategic plan and the Housing First approach, VA expects grantees to serve Veterans at the highest risk of becoming or remaining literally homelessness without SSVF assistance.²² Often, this means accepting Veterans who may have little or no income and have multiple barriers to housing stability. As shown in Exhibit 4.5, although Veterans with higher incomes had higher successful housing outcome rates, Veterans with no income and those earning \$500 or less monthly still achieved a relatively high rate of success, at 81 percent and 79 percent, respectively. In fact, the difference in permanent housing placement success between Veterans who entered SSVF with earnings of \$500 or less in monthly income and those who entered with more than \$2,000 in monthly income was only 2 percent.

Exhibit 4.5: Permanent Housing Success Rates by Monthly Income at Program Entry Among Veterans Served, Excluding HUD-VASH Exits (FY 2016)



n=54,833

NOTE: Data are for Veterans who exited SSVF programs and do not include income changes experienced by other non-Veteran household members.

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

²² The Opening Doors federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness was released in June 2010 by President Barack Obama. The plan includes the federal goal of ending chronic and Veteran homelessness. More information about this strategic plan can be found at the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness Opening Doors webpage: http://usich.gov/opening_doors/.

Exhibit 4.5 differs from the previous exhibit in that it shows permanent housing success rates for Veterans excluding those exiting with a HUD-VASH voucher. Comparing the results from these two exhibits, permanent housing success rates are most reduced for income groups with \$2,000 or less in monthly income (–32 percent) compared with the \$2,001 or more group (–15 percent). That difference indicates SSVF grantees are effectively seeking long-term VASH vouchers primarily for Veterans with very low and low incomes and with disabilities. These results show that SSVF was not as successful as in previous years in housing Veterans with very low incomes. This may reflect more challenging rental markets, as well as serving Veteran households with higher barriers to permanent housing.

Despite the decline, overall these results are consistent with findings from previous years and support progressive engagement and assistance approaches expected among SSVF grantees. This approach allows SSVF grantees to enroll Veterans with little or no income and other housing barriers and then progressively assist them with increasing or decreasing amounts of assistance as needed and desired to remain in housing. Where assistance across programs is well integrated, grantees are able to enroll and assist participants knowing that, though a rapid re-housing intervention may succeed and result in no further need for housing or service supports, access to a permanent supportive housing intervention, such as HUD-VASH, can be facilitated to ensure housing stability.

4.2 Length of Participation

Exhibit 4.6: Average Length of Participation of Veteran Exiters, by Assistance Type (FYs 2013-2016)

	<i>Homelessness Prevention</i>	<i>Rapid Re-housing</i>	<i>Total</i>
FY 2013	97 days	105 days	101 days
FY 2014	93 days	104 days	99 days
FY 2015	99 days	116 days	110 days
FY 2016	102 days	125 days	118 days

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

The average length of participation for SSVF Veterans who received homelessness prevention and those who received rapid re-housing were similar in FY 2016, at 102 days and 125 days, respectively.

Overall, the average length of participation for SSVF in FY 2016 was 118 days. This was an increase of 17 days since FY 2013 and 8 days since last year. These increases were largely driven by rises in the rapid re-housing average length of participation (+20 days from FY 2013 and +9 days since last year), whereas homelessness prevention showed a more modest rise (+5 days from FY 2013 and +3 days since last year). Such increases are likely attributable to a combination of factors, including better targeting to higher-barrier

households and the ongoing challenge of helping Veterans find and sustain suitable permanent housing in high-cost, low-vacancy housing markets.

The shrinking availability of affordable housing has been a growing challenge for SSVF grantees’ working to quickly re-house Veterans experiencing homelessness. Also, the increasingly complex needs of SSVF participants (as reflected in the rise in disability rates from 51 percent to 58 percent of Veteran participants) may add an additional barrier to housing placement. To mitigate these issues, the SSVF Program Office has directed technical assistance resources toward helping grantees improve their landlord engagement, recruitment, and local coordinated entry system efforts.²³

Exhibit 4.7: Comparison of Veteran Exiters, by Assistance Type (FY 2016)

<i>Assistance Type</i>	<i>Length of Participation</i>	<i>Percentage Who Received Assistance Type</i>
Homelessness Prevention	90 days or less	54%
	91 to 180 days	32%
	181 days or more	14%
Rapid Re-housing	90 days or less	42%
	91 to 180 days	35%
	181 days or more	24%

n=72,074

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

Of the 22,929 Veterans who received SSVF homelessness prevention assistance and exited the program in FY 2016, slightly more than half were enrolled in the program for 90 days or less (54 percent), and slightly less than half exited after 90 days (46 percent). Just one in seven (14 percent) exiting Veterans who received homelessness prevention assistance participated for 181 days or more.

The length of participation distribution is similar for the 50,219 Veterans who exited after receiving rapid re-housing assistance. Somewhat more Veterans left in 90 days or less (42 percent) than left in 91 to 180 days (35 percent), whereas the lowest percentage left after 181 days or more (24 percent).

Since FY 2015, this distribution has shifted somewhat toward longer lengths of participation for Veterans exiting rapid re-housing. The proportion of rapid re-housing Veterans who

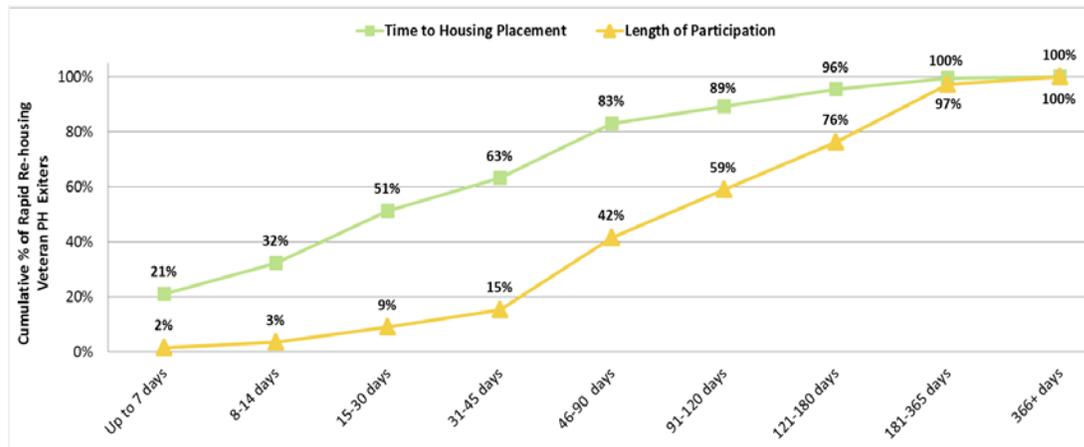
²³ Additional information on SSVF’s efforts to improve coordinated entry system participation and landlord engagement can be found in Sections 5 and 6 of this report.

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exited in 181 days or more rose from 18 percent to 24 percent, whereas those in the 90 days or less group fell 3 percent, and those in the 91 to 180 days group fell 2 percent.

Among Veteran exiters who received homelessness prevention assistance, Veterans who exited in 181 days or more rose from 11 percent to 14 percent, whereas those in the 91 to 180 days group dropped by 5 percent, and those in the 90 days or less group rose by 2 percent.

Exhibit 4.8: Time to Housing Placement and Length of Participation Among Rapid Re-housing Veteran Exiters (FY 2016)



n=39,110

NOTE: Time to housing data were not reported for 7,957 (20 percent) of the 39,110 Veterans who exited to permanent housing destinations who received rapid re-housing assistance. This was an improvement since FY 2015, when 49 percent of the due was missing. Overall, these data quality issues are most likely due to this being a relatively new data element (effective starting in FY 2015). This data element has still not been fully integrated into all grantees' staff data collection protocols and into HMIS software vendors' data quality flags and reporting features.

SOURCE: SSVF-HMIS Repository data.

Starting in FY 2015, SSVF grantees began tracking the date of residential (permanent housing) move-in for literally homeless Veterans receiving rapid re-housing assistance. In conjunction with measuring length of participation, this allows a deeper examination of program efficiency related to the time between program enrollment and permanent housing placement. This new measure assists VA and researchers to understand the timing dynamics of successful rapid re-housing placements.

As shown in Exhibit 4.5, the permanent housing placement date for Veterans usually occurs months ahead of exit from SSVF. For those Veterans who successfully exited SSVF rapid re-housing to permanent housing in FY 2016, it took an average of 50 days to exit homelessness to permanent housing and, on average, another 79 days to exit the program. Put another way, the average Veterans successfully assisted with SSVF rapid re-housing spent 129 days enrolled in SSVF, with a little more than one-third of their program time spent working with SSVF to find and secure permanent housing, and slightly less than two-thirds of their

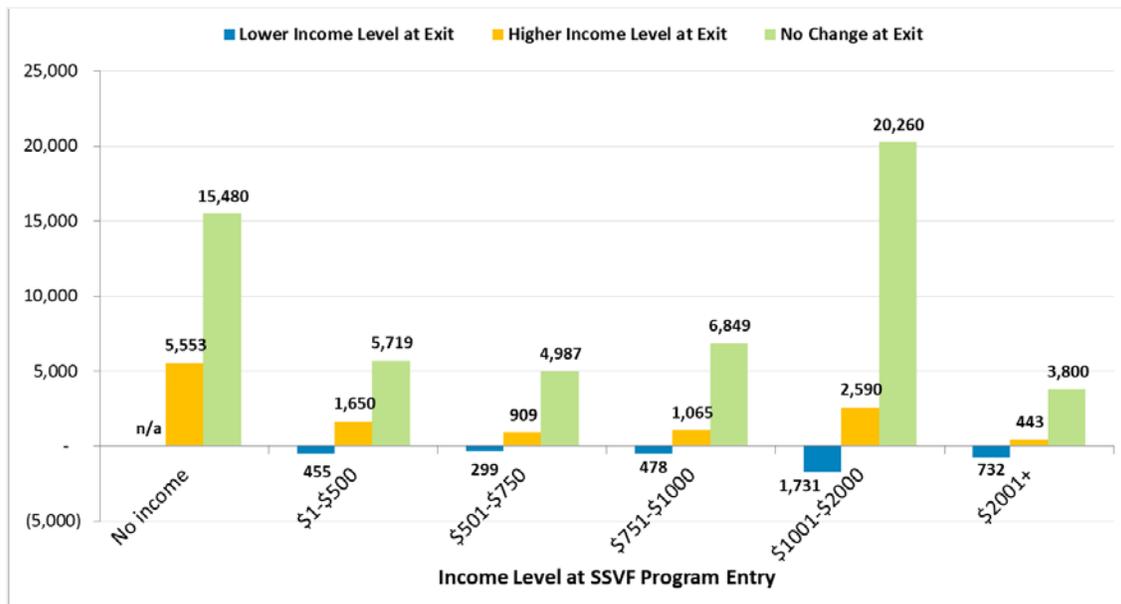
program time receiving case management, rental assistance, and other tenancy supports from SSVF while stabilizing in permanent housing.

More than half (51 percent) of all permanent housing placements occur within 30 days, and 32 percent of rapid re-housing Veterans who exited to permanent housing were placed into a permanent housing situation in 14 days or less. This demonstrates that for a majority of participants, the rapid re-housing model does produce quick resolutions to homelessness. Nearly one-quarter (22 percent) of these Veterans were placed into permanent housing between 31 and 90 days (about one to three months), and another 6 percent of these Veterans were placed into permanent housing in 91 to 120 days (about three to four months). For the remaining 11 percent of these Veterans, it took 121 days or more to be placed into permanent housing.

Less than half (42 percent) of Veterans exiting to permanent housing with rapid re-housing assistance were enrolled in SSVF for 90 days or less (about three months or less). Another 24 percent of these Veterans were enrolled in SSVF for 91 to 180 days (about three to six months). The remaining 24 percent of these Veterans were enrolled in SSVF for 181 days or more, including just 1 percent who were enrolled for more than one year.

4.3 Income and Financial Stability Outcomes

Exhibit 4.9: Changes in Veteran Monthly Income from Entry to Exit, by Assistance Type (FY 2016)



n=72,074

NOTE: This exhibit includes cash income sources only. Non-cash benefits, such as the Supplemental Food Assistance Program (i.e., food stamps), are excluded from the figures in this exhibit.

SOURCE: SSVF- HMIS Repository data.

SSVF, by design, is a short-term, targeted intervention focused on maximizing the ability of a Veteran household to obtain and retain permanent housing. For that reason the SSVF Program Office does not expect that most SSVF participants will experience significant changes in their financial situation during program participation. However, SSVF interventions begun during program participation may result in income gains after program exit (such gains are not included in this analysis). Grantees are required to assess participant income, identify VA and non-VA benefits participants may be eligible for, assist them in obtaining those benefits, and help Veterans and other adult family members identify opportunities to obtain or increase income from employment.

Most of the improvement in Veteran income at exit occurred with entrants at the lowest income levels. One-quarter of Veterans with no income at entry exited SSVF with some amount of monthly income (5,533). Among Veterans entering SSVF with monthly incomes of just \$1 to \$500, a net of 1,195 exited the program with higher incomes (+15 percent). For Veterans entering the program with monthly incomes between \$501 and \$750, a net 610 exited SSVF with higher incomes (+10 percent). Among those with monthly incomes at entry of \$751 to \$2,000, a net 1,446 exited SSVF with higher incomes (+4 percent).

4.3.1 Satisfaction of Veterans Targeted by the Program

SSVF grantees must provide each adult participant with a VA-designated satisfaction survey within 45 to 60 days of the participant’s entry into the grantee’s program, and again within 30 days of the participant’s pending exit from the grantee’s program. In FY 2016, 2,766 participants completed satisfaction surveys.

Exhibit 4.10: Participant Self-Identified Service Needs (FY 2016)

More than 75%...		Between 50-75%...	
Reported needing this service:		Reported needing this service:	
Case management	86%	Security and utility deposits	73%
Rental assistance	86%	Housing counseling	72%
		Income support	64%
		Utility fee payment assistance	61%
		Daily living	52%
		Assistance in obtaining health care	51%
Between 25-49%...		Fewer than 25%...	
Reported needing this service:		Reported needing this service:	
Personal financial planning	49%	Child care	8%
Transportation assistance	46%		
Emergency supply	42%		
Moving costs	40%		
Legal	31%		

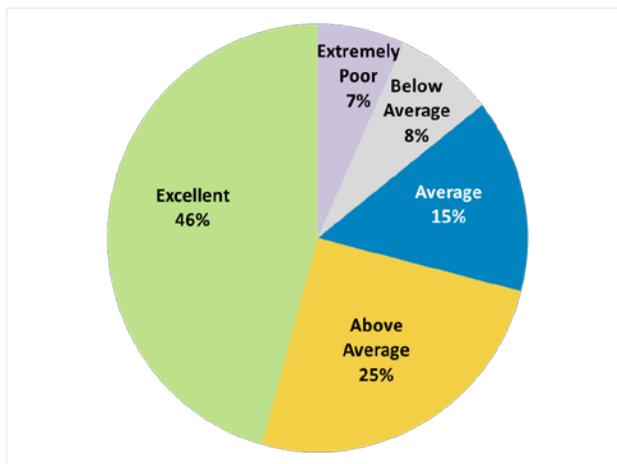
n=2,766

SOURCE: SSVF-Participant satisfaction surveys.

As shown in Exhibit 4.10, at 86 percent, case management and rental assistance services were SSVF participants' top reported needs in FY 2016. As only 18 percent of SSVF households had children, the lowest reported need among all SSVF participants was child care at 8 percent.

Since program entry into SSVF, 51 percent of respondents reported having difficulty in paying housing costs due to decreased income. This was usually because of a significant change in employment status, such as loss of work, in the year before they requested help from an SSVF provider.

Exhibit 4.11: Participant Overall Quality Ratings for Their SSVF Provider (FY 2016)



n=2,766

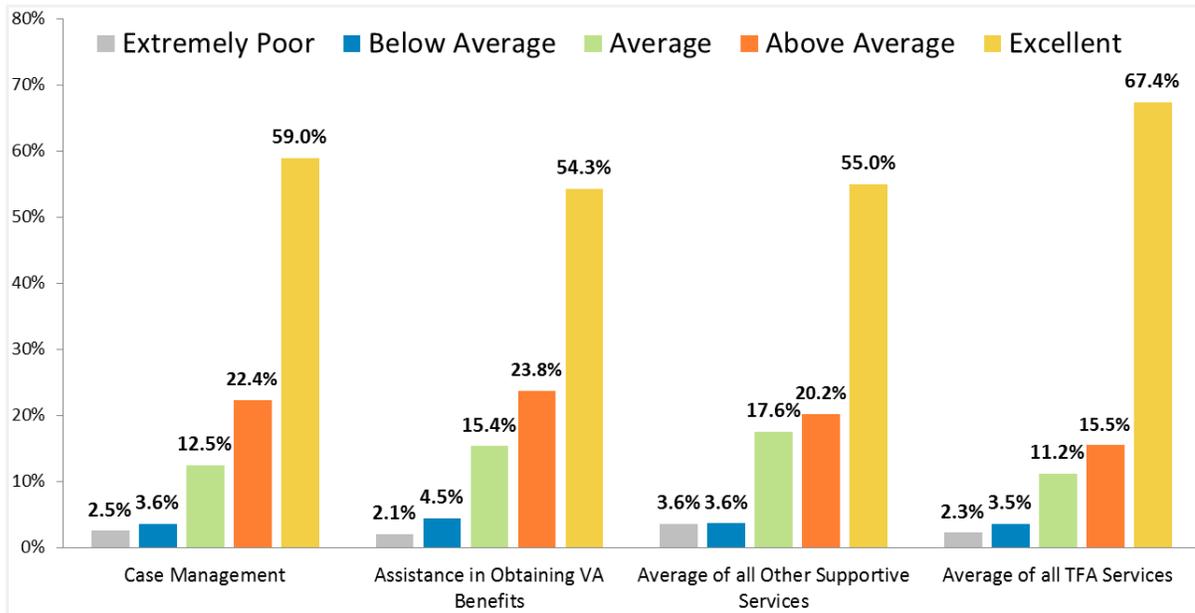
NOTE: For contracting reasons, the satisfaction survey participation level declined from 6,077 in FY 2015 to 2,766 in FY 2016. The survey administrator was able to collect FY 2016 data for only the second half of the year.

SOURCE: SSVF-Participant satisfaction surveys.

Seventy-one percent of adult respondents rated the overall quality of services as “Excellent” or “Above Average” in FY 2016; 15 percent rated them as “Average”; another 15 percent rated them as “Below Average” or “Extremely Poor.”

Overall, a large proportion of participants indicated satisfaction with SSVF’s ability to meet their housing needs. Of the 75 percent who reported that their SSVF provider involved them in creating an individualized housing stabilization plan, 92 percent reported the housing plan fit their needs.

Exhibit 4.12: Participant Rating of Service Quality (FY 2016)



n=2,766

SOURCE: SSVF- Participant satisfaction surveys.

Overall, respondents’ ratings of specific services were higher than their overall quality rating of their SSVF provider (as shown in Exhibit 4.12). TFA assistance received the highest rating, with 83 percent of respondents rating the service as “Excellent” or “Above Average.” Case management services (81 percent), assistance in obtaining VA benefits (78 percent), and the average of all other supportive services (75 percent) each had at least 75 percent of respondents rating the service as “Excellent” or “Above Average.”

4.3.2 SSVF and the SOAR Initiative

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Outreach, Access, and Recovery Initiative (SOAR Initiative) is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to help enroll eligible adults who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness into SSI and SSDI. To qualify, enrollees must have a mental illness or a co-occurring substance use disorder. A reliable and sizable income source, such as SSI or SSDI benefits, often makes the difference between obtaining or retaining housing, rather than becoming or staying homeless.

The SOAR Initiative has shown impressive results in overcoming the barriers that have traditionally made it difficult for homeless persons to obtain SSI/SSDI, including a lack of medical, employment, and educational history. Since the SOAR Initiative’s nationwide rollout began in 2006, disability determination approval rates on the initial application rose

from 10-15 percent for homeless persons who did not receive SOAR assistance to 67 percent for homeless persons who did receive SOAR assistance in 2016.²⁴

Recognizing the value of the SOAR Initiative, VA introduced an effort to encourage SSVF grantees to complete SOAR training classes. As of December 2016, at least 61 percent of grantees confirmed that they were using the SOAR model, with 16 percent of grantees having an SSVF-funded dedicated SOAR benefits specialist. Overall, 43 percent of grantees reported that they had SOAR-trained staff, with an average of 2.3 trained SOAR staffers for those grantees.²⁵

VA intends to closely monitor SSVF grantee involvement in the SOAR Initiative. In the next SSVF Annual Report, updated information will be provided on grantee SSI/SSDI outcomes at the Veteran level with newly available HMIS data.

4.4 Returns to Homelessness

A key measure of effectiveness for programs serving homeless persons and those at high risk of homelessness is whether participants can avoid falling into homelessness after their stay in that program has been completed. It appears that those exiting SSVF to permanent housing have fared well in maintaining housing up to one year post-discharge when compared with a cohort of other impoverished Veterans.

At a national level, accurately and consistently tracking both entries and returns to homelessness is a challenging task. Researchers, funders, and government are diligently working on developing standardized methodologies to track returns to homelessness. In the interim, and for Section 4.4 of this report, a “homeless episode” was counted only if one of the following circumstances was met: (1) a record of completion of a HOMES assessment form; (2) a record of entry into a VA specialized homelessness program; (3) or a record of SSVF rapid re-housing services. Veterans who exited SSVF to permanent housing destinations were followed from their date of exit until the occurrence of their first episode of homelessness (if any) using both a 6-month and a 12-month lookback period to identify whether and when they experienced a homeless episode, as defined above.

To examine changes over time in returns to VA homeless programs from SSVF, this subsection provides two different time periods for the comparison of SSVF Veterans returns versus VA homeless programs. In Exhibit 4.13 on page 39, returns to VA homelessness programs at 6 and 12 months following SSVF exit are shown for a cohort of 32,033 Veterans who exited SSVF to permanent housing between October 2011 and September 2013.

²⁴ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, “2016 SOAR Outcomes Summary,” retrieved September, 25, 2016, <https://soarworks.prainc.com/sites/soarworks.prainc.com/files/2016%20Outcomes-0329-508.pdf>.

²⁵ U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, “Supportive Services for Veteran Families: SOAR Integration Toolkit,” June 2017, https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf/docs/SSVF_SOAR_Toolkit_Final_v1.pdf.

Similarly, Exhibit 4.14 on page 40 describes returns for 87,284 Veterans who exited SSVF to permanent housing between October 2014 and May 2016.²⁶

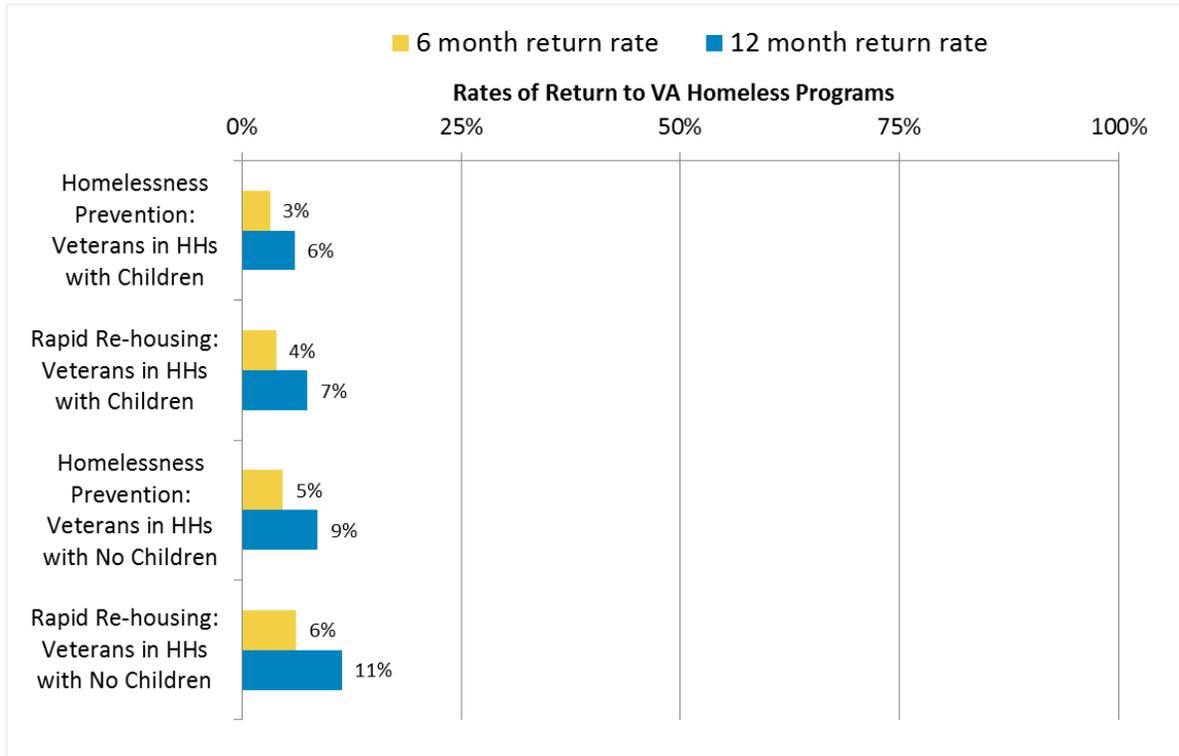
The analysis presented here used data collected by the SSVF program and by HOMES (an administrative database that tracks use of VA specialized homelessness programs) to assess the sustainability of housing outcomes for Veterans who exited SSVF to permanent housing destinations. Veterans were excluded from both cohorts if they had missing or invalid Social Security numbers, or if their housing status at entry into the SSVF program was unknown. The resulting cohorts of Veterans were stratified into four sub-groups, based on household type (Veterans in household without children versus Veterans in households with children) and SSVF service category (homelessness prevention versus rapid re-housing).

A set of statistical methods known as survival analysis was used to track these four groups prospectively to examine the timing and occurrence of episodes of homelessness following their exit from SSVF.

Given the developing nature of the appropriate metrics to use to track returns to homelessness, both a 6-month and a 12-month lookback period are included in this section. As larger economic, housing market, societal, or other major factors may exert greater influence over time, some researchers prefer a shorter time window following program exit. Other researchers prefer a longer window to measure the longer-term sustainability of permanent housing placements.

²⁶ For the latter cohort (Exhibit 4.14), SSVF program uses separated by 30 days or less were collapsed into the same SSVF usage episode to account for Veteran transfers between SSVF programs and geographical areas. That same adjustment was not possible for the earlier cohort (in Exhibit 4.13). However, in running the latter cohort's data using the earlier cohort's methodology, return rates for all four sub-groups differed by less than 1 percentage point and would not alter the rounded totals found in Exhibit 4.14 for comparison with Exhibit 4.13.

Exhibit 4.13: SSVF Veteran Participant with Permanent Housing Destination Return Rates to VA Homeless Programs (October 2011-September 2013)



n=32,033

SOURCES: SSVF-HMIS Repository data; HOMES.

Exhibit 4.13 shows low levels of returns to VA homelessness programs by SSVF Veterans who exited to permanent housing destinations between October 2011 and September 2013 across all household (HH) and housing assistance types. As a point of comparison, these return rates were generally lower than the roughly 9 percent of Veterans in poverty who are estimated to experience homelessness on an annual basis according to the best available data for 2012.²⁷ This is a particularly important finding as it is well established that those who have previously been homeless are at higher risk of future homelessness. Based, on these findings, SSVF appears to eliminate this heightened risk.

Return rates for Veterans in households with children were consistently lower than their Veteran counterparts in households without children. Six months after exit from SSVF, 3 percent of Veterans in households with children who received homelessness prevention assistance entered a VA-funded homelessness program, whereas those Veterans in households with children receiving rapid re-housing assistance returned homeless at a 4

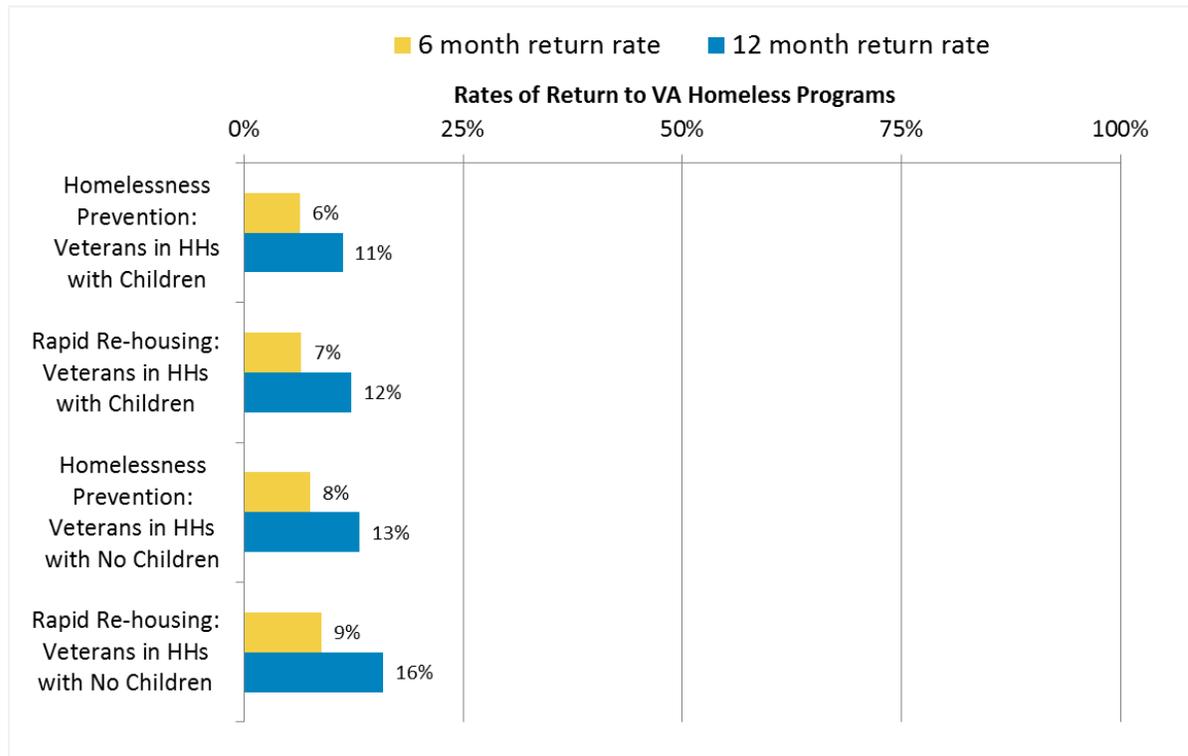
²⁷ “American Community Survey, 2012, 1-year estimates: Age by Veteran Status by Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Disability Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over (B21007),” *U.S. Census Bureau*. Retrieved on November 30, 2017 at <https://factfinder.census.gov/>

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percent rate. For Veterans in households without children, 5 percent returned from homelessness prevention, whereas 6 percent returned after receiving rapid re-housing assistance.

Twelve months after exit from SSVF, return rates doubled or nearly doubled for each household and assistance combination type. The highest rate of return was for Veterans in households without children who received rapid re-housing assistance, at 11 percent.

Exhibit 4.14: SSVF Veteran Participant with Permanent Housing Destination Return Rates to VA Homeless Programs (October 2014-May 2016)



n=87,284

SOURCES: SSVF-HMIS Repository data; HOMES.

Consistent with Exhibit 4.13, this exhibit shows relatively low levels of returns to VA homelessness programs by SSVF Veterans who exited to permanent housing destinations between October 2014 and May 2016 across all household and housing assistance types. Rates of return are consistently 3 percent points higher for this cohort compared with the 6-month post-SSVF exit time window in Exhibit 4.13. Similarly, rates of return are about 5 percent points higher than the previous cohort for the 12-month post-SSVF time window.

Comparatively, SSVF Veteran 12-month return rates to VA homelessness programs for this period were slightly higher than the 10 percent rate of Veterans in poverty estimated to have experienced homelessness at some point over the course of 2015.²⁸

The slight uptick in the rates of return to homelessness program among SSVF Veteran exiters over the last few years may be related to the tightening of the affordable housing market and increases in the cost of living in urban housing markets, where a proportionally high number of SSVF Veterans have been served. Additional analysis is needed to investigate this issue more closely.

Related Research

SOURCE: J.M. Rodriguez & T.A. Eidelman. (2017). "Homelessness Interventions in Georgia: Rapid Re-Housing, Transitional Housing, and the Likelihood of Returning to Shelter." *Housing Policy Debate* 27 (6): 825-842. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1080/10511482.2017.1313292>.

This study examines returns to homelessness in Georgia using HMIS data to examine the effectiveness rapid re-housing, transitional housing, and emergency shelter-only interventions among 306 comparatively similar households. Among those households, the study found both rapid re-housing and transitional housing were highly effective at preventing returns to sheltered homelessness in Georgia, especially among households without children—with a 39 percent return rate for households using emergency shelter only, 18 percent for those receiving transitional housing, and 14 percent for those getting rapid re-housing. Households with children had a lower return rate—with a 10 percent return rate for households receiving rapid re-housing or transitional housing and 24 percent for those getting emergency shelter only.

The study authors note that though rapid re-housing and transitional housing were similarly effective for both household types on returns to homelessness, national cost and homelessness duration data favor rapid re-housing for most households.

²⁸ "American Community Survey, 2015, 1-year estimates: Age by Veteran Status by Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Disability Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over (B21007)," *U.S. Census Bureau*. Retrieved on November 30, 2017 at <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

5. SSVF Program Implementation and Technical Assistance

In FY 2016, the SSVF program continued its operation with a total of 378 grantees covering nearly every community in the country. Technical assistance (TA) in this fifth year of SSVF program implementation continued to increase focus on supporting local and national efforts to end homelessness among Veterans and the coordination efforts required to meet those goals. VA and its TA partners worked closely with, and contributed to, federal planning efforts related to ending homelessness among Veterans, positioning SSVF as a driving force toward that end in local Continuums of Care.

SSVF grantees, VA personnel, and TA partners continued to enhance SSVF's programmatic role in implementing innovative practices and in convening local stakeholders around a shared vision and community plan for ending homelessness among Veterans. Robust efforts to focus attention on direct, onsite, and virtual community TA yielded considerable positive results and movement toward a standardized set of coordinated practices as the foundation for effective community planning, implementation, and evaluation. SSVF also published a series of tools and resources to support grantee and local efforts.

5.1 Community Planning and Coordination

The Department of Veterans Affairs devoted significant TA resources to help grantees better coordinate assistance with local VA, CoC, and community partners; establish meaningful plans to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans; and develop and implement community-wide strategies to accomplish their plans.

VA recognizes that there are a number of initiatives throughout the country aiming to end Veteran and chronic homelessness in the coming years, including the Mayors Challenge, HUD's Vets@Home TA, and the Zero16 campaign. As SSVF is one of the primary federally funded interventions for Veterans experiencing a housing crisis, and an intervention with unprecedented flexibility, VA sees SSVF participation and leadership in community planning efforts as imperative to achieving both national and local goals. In addition to national guidance and technical assistance, VA also provided direct, targeted onsite and remote TA to a wide range of communities in support of local efforts to end homelessness.

5.1.1 SSVF Community Plan Summaries

In late 2014, the SSVF Program Office began tracking grantee and community partner progress related to developing and executing plans designed to effectively end homelessness among Veterans. These tracking efforts were initiated with grantees in Priority 1 communities and then expanded in early 2015 to include all grantees and the communities they serve. Since that time, the sophistication of local practices, the publication of the *Federal Criteria and Benchmarks for Ending Homelessness among Veterans*, Functional Zero metrics, and growing clarity on the basic elements of community planning and achievement have informed a more targeted approach to the community planning process—

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and, as a result, to the types of information collected by VA regarding local efforts related to Veterans.

VA shifted community plan summaries to a more robust, data-driven approach that provides a forum for SSVF grantees, in partnership with CoC leadership and other VA programs, to articulate their local planning process and their progress in actualizing the practices necessary to their community. These summary plans continue to be posted publicly on the SSVF University website, along with a range of resources and community planning tools that will be discussed later in this report. The collection of Community Plan summaries ensures that SSVF is a key driver and partner in local efforts and sets an expectation that all SSVF grantees, in communities large and small, be active partners with their CoCs, local VA system, other stakeholders, and local public officials.

5.1.2 Direct Coordination Support

The SSVF Program Office and TA partners strive to provide SSVF grantees and their partners the tools, support, and training to be leaders in local planning efforts and to leverage promising practices toward this end. SSVF TA partners and other national partners have seen SSVF grantee leadership catalyze results in a number of communities. Examples of SSVF grantee leadership supported by TA efforts include SSVF participation in building coordinated entry systems, standardizing Housing First approaches across systems, chairing local Veteran planning committees, managing and directing master list and case conferencing activities, using SSVF housing navigators as a system-wide permanent housing linkage, and promulgating practices related to community planning and goals setting.

Beginning in October 2014 and continuing throughout FY 2016, VA released a series of tools and products to support SSVF grantees in their local community planning efforts. In FY 2016 these included the following:

- practice briefs on master or by-name lists, case conferencing, progressive engagement strategies, and community planning;
- a master list template and benchmark generation tool;
- a federal criteria and benchmark community review tool;
- webinar broadcasts; and
- written and virtual training materials delivered in onsite SSVF Program Launch Events, Regional Meetings, and Community Meetings.

VA made these planning tools widely available by posting them on SSVF University, distributing them via listserv, and applying the tools during direct TA and grantee engagements.

Throughout FY 2016, SSVF TA providers worked directly with a range of communities both remotely and onsite. These engagements allowed for a wide range of technical assistance and

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training, relevant both to SSVF specifically and to larger community planning and implementation processes. Direct TA engagements provided an opportunity for VA to leverage the tools, promising practices, and approaches learned over the years and apply those lessons to locally driven planning processes. TA providers, in partnership with SSVF VA staff, provided both demand-response and ongoing TA specifically designed to help local grantees and their partners establish thoughtful, action-oriented community plans and implement those plans using the innovative practices SSVF has catalyzed in recent years.

To further SSVF's efforts around community planning and promoting action-oriented localized collaboration, VA held two SSVF Program Launch Events in October 2015. These events combined didactic and supported peer-to-peer sharing with subject matter expertise from TA staff, SSVF VA personnel, and the national directors of the Grant and Per Diem, HUD-VASH, and Health Care for Homeless Veterans programs. The Launch events used a refreshed, peer-driven model of learning whereby TA and VA staff presented briefly on a range of 16 topics in breakout sessions before local practitioners—using a discussion guide created for the event—shared their own practices and experiences. SSVF staff acted as table facilitators and moderators of the conversations, but the small group discussions were primarily driven by local practitioners. At the end of each session, VA and TA staff facilitated larger group debriefings to enhance the cross-pollination of learning and knowledge.

During late winter 2016, VA then held a series of Regional Meetings for SSVF grantees. These meetings further leveraged the peer learning model while also ensuring some direct guidance relative to priority topics, including targeting homelessness prevention services, the use of substance abuse services to support housing goals, coordinated entry, and tools created to support data tracking toward the federal criteria and benchmarks. Generally, these meetings sought to promote SSVF leadership at the local level and deliver guidance and training relevant to community coordination and the intersection of SSVF and the system practices that form the foundation for ending homelessness. They relied, again, on peer-driven problem-solving and overall action step planning in a facilitated environment.

In fall 2016, VA also sponsored a second round of annual Regional Meetings in each of the nine SSVF regions. These events sought to build on the existing capacity of SSVF grantees and provide a forum for guided training and peer sharing with two topic tracks: (1) "Program Leadership," focused on sustainable system planning operations, and (2) "Direct Care," for new staff and focused on the fundamentals of rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention. This set of topics was chosen to meet dual TA needs for SSVF: providing support for community planning and collaboration and recognizing the frequency of staff turnover in SSVF and the need to offer direct training for new program staff. The Regional Meetings used a blended learning approach, mixing didactic presentations with small group discussions/activities and large group reflections.

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Concurrent with these fall 2016 Regional Meetings, VA provided direct TA to eight communities as part of a pilot Community Meeting model meant to provide in-depth support for local efforts. Community Meetings are typically day-long, locally driven convenings that include the full range of stakeholders working to end homelessness among Veterans. Supported and facilitated by SSVF VA and TA staff, these Community Meetings provide a forum to leverage the lessons learned nationally and apply those practices and planning processes directly to local needs. The meetings are individually tailored to each community's needs. SSVF's aim is to ensure that a fully systematic and comprehensive planning strategy is in place as local CoCs work toward ending homelessness among Veterans. Of note, other state and federal partners from VA, HUD, and USICH are involved in the planning and delivery of these sessions, as well, reinforcing a united federal and local commitment toward achieving these goals. A number of communities supported by SSVF TA have filed claims with the federal partners that they have effectively ended homelessness among Veterans, or have declared meeting Functional Zero. Other communities supported by SSVF TA are expected to do so soon.

5.1.3 Grantee Feedback

Evaluations collected at the conclusion of each event described above provided consistently positive feedback about each event's success in increasing participants' understanding. The responses also provided valuable insight into grantees' training needs, which further informed technical assistance planning. SSVF TA providers delivered reports on each event summarizing grantee evaluation feedback and comments. These reports were shared with VA staff and leadership and were used to help guide TA planning efforts throughout the year.

5.2 SSVF University

In fall 2013, VA launched "SSVF University," an online learning platform for grantees that shares program requirements and practices and provides a comprehensive library of tools and resources.²⁹ In FY 2016, VA continued to emphasize the value of SSVF University and sought to enhance the platform's user interface and capacity. This included adding a new "Community Coordination and Plans" section housing a Community Planning Toolkit to assist SSVF grantees and partners in achieving their goals.

In FY 2014, VA released an electronic survey to inform the planning and implementation of SSVF University, and it held one focus group with SSVF grantees seeking feedback on how this web-based learning platform could best meet their needs. That survey, along with discussions and feedback from VA and TA personnel, led to a full review in FY 2015 of the site's resources, design, and functionality. Throughout FY 2015, VA and its TA partners developed a simpler organizational schema for the website, combining the general SSVF program landing page at VA.gov with the University to create a single destination for all SSVF regulations, announcements, resources, and tools. The site's new design greatly

²⁹ http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.asp?page=/ssvf_university/

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simplified the navigational flow and allowed for clearer delineations among program requirements, policies, and practices. The new version of the website launched in September 2015 and was further refined throughout FY 2016.

In addition to reorganizing the general content on the website, new content and tools were developed to support SSVF grantees, as described further in Section 5.3 below.

5.3 Supporting Program Implementation and Ongoing Quality Improvement

FY 2016 is the fifth year of operations for the SSVF program. Some grantees have been funded all five years, whereas others have operated for only two or three program years. VA also recognizes the commonness of staff turnover, particularly among direct care practitioners. Consequently, TA efforts continued to account for a wide range of grantee needs.

5.3.1 Compliance and Quality Improvement

The SSVF program continued to provide program-level technical assistance to VA-identified grantees experiencing significant compliance or program practice deficiencies. VA SSVF Regional Coordinators in consultation with TA staff and monitoring staff also sought to identify critical training needs for one-on-one and regionally based technical assistance, delivered both in person and virtually. FY 2016 was the third year that SSVF compliance monitoring was conducted by TA contractors; this shift in monitoring responsibilities gave VA SSVF Regional Coordinators more time to engage in direct TA support with their grantees. Furthermore, VA SSVF Regional Coordinators, TA general staff, and TA monitoring staff focused on internal coordination to ensure that trends were identified and addressed as part of the larger TA and training framework. Monitors, who conducted 369 visits during FY 2016, became a valuable resource to VA both in regards to compliance needs by identifying challenges related to program practices and to implementing core SSVF principles.

The collaborative nature of this work allowed VA to prioritize compliance and practice areas that needed the most attention and support across grantees, and that supported ongoing compliance, quality improvement, and performance.

5.3.2 Tools, Products, and Trainings

The coordinated approach to TA delivery directly informed training efforts and activities related to creating tools and products, such as revisions to the *SSVF Program Guide* (reissued October 2015 and May 2016) and other documents on the SSVF University site. For example, VA enhanced its *SSVF Grantee Orientation Guide*, a collection of basic resources and modules for new grantees (and new staff in grantee organizations).

VA also offered TA opportunities to meet grantees' unique needs based on their program implementation progress, status in meeting contractual obligations to date, involvement in local planning efforts, and outcome data from the first four years of the program. SSVF

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Regional Coordinators supported grantees with monthly regional conference calls supported by TA staff and with monthly national webinars covering relevant topics and program policy updates. At key points in the year when important issues or topics needed to be addressed, the SSVF program hosted national webinars, which typically included between 400 and 500 attendees.

5.3.3 Data-Informed Planning

Similar to using monitoring to help focus technical assistance, VA was also able to use outcome data—both local and national—to inform training and technical assistance. SSVF now represents one of the most comprehensive and timely datasets related to rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention in the country. This puts VA and the SSVF program in a unique position to use SSVF data to better understand these interventions, the Veterans and families they serve, and cost-effective strategies for preventing and ending homelessness. This data-informed approach continues to guide TA and implementation support activities, and it will become more valuable as the program is sustained in the coming years.

5.3.4 Policy Response to Veteran Needs

VA has used the data and monitoring results noted above, as well as direct feedback from SSVF grantees and assisted Veteran families, to inform policy recommendations. For instance, the combination of emerging practices and research related to homelessness prevention services led VA to revise its homelessness prevention screening tool, enhancing its homelessness prevention targeting to ensure that those Veterans being assisted were both at greatest imminent risk of literal homelessness and the most likely to suffer trauma should homelessness occur. The revision process incorporated feedback from SSVF grantees, national partners, TA experts, and SSVF staff. This collaborative, inclusive process led to one of the most comprehensive homelessness prevention tools known to be in use.³⁰

During FY 2016, SSVF developed a waiver process to allow communities, under specific circumstances, to increase the portion of their grant used for homelessness prevention. Previously, all grantees had to use at least 60 percent of their temporary financial assistance on rapid re-housing services. Given the progress made by local communities toward achieving the federal criteria and benchmarks and driving down the number of homeless Veterans generally, VA recognized a need to allow certain communities to shift resources toward homelessness prevention services. These waivers, which are highly targeted and tend to be most appropriate for rural and tribal areas, were a direct response to the shifting needs in local communities and the best practices SSVF grantees have demonstrated. Nationally, SSVF still maintains a strong emphasis on prioritizing the needs of literally homeless Veterans, and 70 percent of all Veterans served in FY 2016 fall into the literally homeless category.

³⁰ Marybeth Shinn et al. (2013 December). “Efficient Targeting of Homelessness Prevention Services for Families,” *American Journal of Public Health*. Retrieved on September 26, 2017, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3969118/>.

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Moving forward, VA will be able to use outcome and targeting data to inform homelessness prevention services and planning. For instance, under SSVF's leadership and in partnership with HUD, changes to the Homeless Management Information System data standards will soon be made to include prevention threshold scores (as well as other relevant items, such as "Residential Move-in Date"). In incorporating these data points as standard, required practice, SSVF will soon represent the largest dataset relevant to targeting and outcomes for homelessness prevention services for Veterans and will allow for an analysis of predictive risk factors associated with homelessness prevention needs.

5.4 Practice Standards and Accreditation

VA continued to emphasize to SSVF grantees the importance of using the SSVF practice standards to guide program design and fidelity to the SSVF core practices. The SSVF standards describe core program features and evidence-based practices around rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention across a range of program elements. Once they were published in FY 2013, VA was able to share the SSVF standards with three primary accreditation bodies—Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), the Council on Accreditation (COA), and the Joint Commission. This complemented the FY 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 program Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs), which allowed for multi-year funding awards for grantees accredited through CARF or COA.

Further, in FY 2014, VA and other key stakeholders participated on an International Standards Advisory Committee (ISAC) with CARF to draft a new set of homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing standards that have since been incorporated into CARF's Employment and Community Standards accreditation process. The SSVF standards were a basis for ISAC's discussions; CARF formally incorporated them into its accreditation process on January 1, 2015. During this same period, COA also developed and adopted updated standards pertaining to rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention with input from the SSVF Program Office, VA technical assistance providers, and other subject matter experts.

As of the publication of this Annual Report, 102 grantees have received accreditation from CARF and/or COA. VA considers accreditation a clear demonstration that these grantees operate their organizations and programs with a distinct level of professionalism and with fidelity to SSVF's model.

5.5 Next Steps and Looking Forward to FY 2017

In the coming fiscal year, VA will continue to leverage its resources to provide program-based TA while supporting the program's unique role in leading and driving local efforts to end homelessness among Veterans. In particular, VA will continue to work closely with other VA homelessness programs and federal partners, namely HUD and USICH, to ensure a coherent, coordinated approach to supporting direct community-level efforts to end homelessness among Veterans. For instance, in FY 2016, SSVF with HUD and USICH and

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national TA partners, began participating in cross-agency coordination calls and planning sessions to ensure TA coordination and consistency. This includes ongoing cross-agency TA planning and implementation and the adoption of a common set of strategies and approaches to supporting local efforts. SSVF TA providers are also engaged with HUD in delivering additional TA support called “Vets@Home.” SSVF TA closely coordinated with Community Solutions, representatives from the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, and other national efforts. This coordination will continue to allow for a consistent approach to TA and other support relevant to ending homelessness among Veterans across federal programs and initiatives.

Finally, SSVF will continue to issue guidance and offer trainings to meet the growing need for targeted, effective rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention services.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Increasing Community Integration

With awards announced in the fifth program year, SSVF grantee coverage in FY 2016 reached 96 percent of all CoC areas. With this level of coverage, SSVF grantees are able to participate in CoC efforts to create and refine coordinated entry systems that feature both a standardized access and assessment process and a coordinated referral process for prevention, emergency shelter, permanent housing placement and stabilization assistance, and other services.

Community plan surveys are and will continue to be a useful tool to ensure that SSVF grantees are fully and meaningfully engaged with community planning efforts. Periodic surveys are requested by the SSVF Program Office as a way to understand what goals grantees and their local VA and CoC partners have established related to meeting the federal criteria and benchmarks or Functional Zero metrics, and the practices that underlie those goals, as well as specific system and programmatic efforts being undertaken to accomplish them. As described in Section 5, community plan summaries include responses to in-depth questions about community practices related to Veterans and areas where further collaboration or efficiencies are needed.

SSVF is one of the primary interventions for Veterans experiencing a housing crisis, and VA therefore sees SSVF participation and leadership in community planning efforts as critical. VA and TA staff support SSVF grantees to ensure that they are

- fully integrating their services with other VA programs;
- creating sustained partnerships with property owners and community employment networks;
- making strategic, data-informed decisions on resource allocation; and
- participating in CoC planning bodies and Veterans leadership groups.

Further, these efforts allow SSVF grantees to leverage their resources by helping to shape CoC planning efforts. Through grantee involvement in coordinated entry and other planning efforts, CoCs will maintain a focus on homeless and at-risk Veterans to include those who cannot, because of eligibility, be served by VA. Such collaboration is critical if VA is to reach its goal of ending homelessness among Veterans.

6.2 Housing Market Challenges and Landlord Engagement

The dwindling supply of affordable housing has been a burgeoning challenge for the rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention efforts of SSVF grantees. In 2016, the overall national rental housing vacancy rate hit a 32-year low at 6.9 percent. Meanwhile, in the affordable housing market, there was only one affordable rental unit for every three extremely low-

income renters (those with incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median).³¹ Housing market conditions are even more extreme on the East and West Coasts and other communities where there are also higher counts of Veterans experiencing homelessness.

To mitigate this challenge, SSVF grantees are expanding their leadership roles by assisting their local partners with property owner engagement strategies and innovative housing models. SSVF grantees' extensive experience in rapidly re-housing Veterans often positions them as local experts in how to recruit and retain private owners and other local housing partners. For coordinated entry systems to operate effectively for Veterans and others, investment in greater system capacity to recruit and retain an array of property owner partners is needed, along with greater coordination of owner relationships across providers. In most communities, SSVF is demonstrating how to operationalize such practices, and SSVF providers are often leading the way in scaling up such practices across local homeless crisis response systems.

SSVF will continue to evaluate data from communities with low vacancy rates to see how both placement and housing retention are affected by the changing housing economies where SSVF operates. Based on this evaluation, and the development of new emerging practices, SSVF will revise practice standards as necessary to be responsive to these changing conditions.

6.3 SSVF Integration with Other VA Homelessness Programs

SSVF program staff work closely with all other VA homelessness assistance programs to integrate efforts and facilitate streamlined access to assistance for Veterans experiencing homelessness and more rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing. The increasing use of Grant and Per Diem beds as bridge housing for Veterans receiving SSVF's rapid re-housing services is one key example of this collaborative effort. Bridge housing can help address a Veteran's immediate need for safety and shelter, and reduce the need for time-consuming street outreach to keep in contact with the Veteran during the housing lease-up phase, while also ensuring a direct, rapid line of access to permanent housing.

In addition, SSVF now regularly engages, internally and through public training opportunities, other VA homelessness programs. As an example, national leads from the Grant and Per Diem program, Health Care for Homeless Veterans, HUD-VASH, and VA Network Homeless Coordinators now frequently attend and contribute to SSVF Program Launch Events, webinars, and other training efforts. This deliberate coordination has continued to break down barriers among VA homelessness programs, and between VA and community efforts more generally. This effort at the national level has also reduced

³¹ Fernald, Marcia, et al, "The State of the Nation's Housing, 2017," *Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University*, 2017, retrieved November 30, 2017, http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/jchs.harvard.edu/files/harvard_jchs_state_of_the_nations_housing_2017.pdf.

confusion as to VA homelessness program priorities and has helped SSVF and its federal partners to offer a unified vision for planning, delivering, and evaluating services. Closer communication and coordination has resulted in more efficient and appropriate service delivery while reducing redundancies in services and the number of Veterans requiring multiple VA homelessness programs in order to access permanent housing.

6.4 Tracking Progress and Next Steps

VA will continue to leverage its resources to provide comprehensive program-based technical assistance, while also emphasizing SSVF's unique role in local efforts to end homelessness among Veterans. The surge funds and resulting TA efforts that began in FY 2015 ultimately have formed the foundation for current planning efforts. They also have provided a forum for SSVF grantees to engage directly with other community and public partners. This continued focus will make sure that SSVF resources are used as efficiently and effectively as possible to ensure

- that homelessness is ended and prevented where possible;
- that Veterans are never forced to live on the street; and
- that Veterans who do experience homelessness are quickly reconnected to permanent housing with complementary, community-based supportive services.

Though TA related to coordination is particularly important for grantees and their VA and CoC partners in high-priority communities, all SSVF grantees are provided community planning support to ensure that SSVF plays a pivotal role in ending homelessness among Veterans in every single community nationwide.

In October 2015, VA and USICH took the important step of publicly defining criteria and related performance benchmarks for achieving the goal of ending homelessness among Veterans.³² This information is crucial in helping prioritize federal and local efforts to end and prevent Veteran homelessness. The five federal criteria for having ended Veteran homelessness are as follows:

1. The community has identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness.
2. The community provides shelter immediately to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it.
3. The community only provides service-intensive transitional housing in limited instances.

³² United State Interagency Council on Homelessness, Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness, retrieved September 25, 2017, <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/criteria-for-ending-veteran-homelessness>. These Community Plans are publically available online at www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.asp?page=/ssvf_university/community_coordination_and_plans.

4. The community has capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing.
5. The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future.

The partnerships forged and homelessness resources provided over the last five years by VA, SSVF providers, and CoCs have yielded some noteworthy achievements. As of June 2017, two states and 52 communities had successfully ended Veteran homelessness by meeting the federal criteria and related benchmarks. SSVF played a significant role in most of these communities' achievements.³³

As the first state to officially end Veteran homelessness, Virginia is a good example of the scale of SSVF's role. In FY 2015, some 1,432 homeless Veterans were housed statewide.³⁴ SSVF providers made at least 461 of those housing placements.³⁵ An additional 263 Veterans who were at risk of homelessness exited SSVF homelessness prevention programs to permanent housing situations.³⁶

Over the next year, SSVF will continue to collaborate and innovate with local community providers, Veterans, and other key stakeholders to end Veteran homelessness. This means bringing the number of people experiencing homelessness down by connecting them to permanent housing and ensuring that homelessness in the future is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.

³³ For a complete listing of the 53 communities and 3 states that have met the federal criteria on ending Veteran homelessness, see VA's "Ending Veteran Homelessness: A Community by Community Tally" webpage at <https://www.va.gov/homeless/endingvetshomelessness.asp>.

³⁴ Office of the Governor (Virginia), "Virginia Is the First State in the Nation to Functionally End Veteran Homelessness" [Press Release], November 11, 2015, retrieved at <https://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/newsarticle?articleId=13421>.

³⁵ Due to limitations in the SSVF-HMIS Repository reporting system for FY 2015, five grants that served more than one state, including Virginia, were excluded from the statewide SSVF housing placement total. The system only allowed for single-state SSVF grants to be included in the statewide total.

³⁶ See note 35.



Steven Pfenning is a Veteran of the Navy and the National Guard. He started his own painting business, but was unable to sustain it. Subsequent jobs did not pay enough for Mr. Pfenning and his partner to maintain their housing. Eventually, that forced Steven and his partner to move into a vehicle for a month.

After being accepted into Goodwill Industries of New Mexico's SSVF program, Mr. Pfenning's situation began to turn around.

The SSVF program connected him to the VA Medical Center to receive medical and social services. Next, with case management, he and his partner developed a housing stabilization plan that fit their needs, and they received assistance in securing an apartment that fit their situation. To help foster housing stability, the SSVF program arranged for Mr. Pfenning to receive a housing kit, which included a bed and important kitchen items.

Since obtaining housing, Mr. Pfenning has enrolled in VA's Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program at Goodwill, which assists Veterans in reintegrating into meaningful employment within the labor force. Though his search for a job continues in earnest, his partner found a job at a nearby retirement community. Currently, he and his partner are stable and happy with their housing situation.

CLIENT SUCCESS STORIES

Appendix 1. FY 2016 SSVF Grantees

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Aletheia House, Inc.	14-AL-154	Alabama
Family Endeavors, Inc.	14-AL-155	Alabama
Housing First, Inc.	12-AL-002	Alabama
	3	Alabama Grantees
Catholic Social Services	12-AK-001	Alaska
Fairbanks Rescue Mission, Inc.	14-AK-152	Alaska
	2	Alaska Grantees
American National Red Cross Southern Arizona Chapter	13-AZ-087	Arizona
Catholic Charities Community Services, Inc.	14-AZ-160	Arizona
National Community Health Partners	14-AZ-157	Arizona
Primavera Foundation	12-AZ-004	Arizona
United Methodist Outreach Ministries	12-AZ-003	Arizona
United States Veterans Initiative	14-AZ-159	Arizona
Vietnam Veterans of California, Inc.	14-AZ-158	Arizona
	7	Arizona Grantees
Seven Hills Homeless Center	14-AR-156	Arkansas
St. Francis House, Inc.	13-AR-086	Arkansas
	2	Arkansas Grantees
1736 Family Crisis Center	14-CA-324	California
Berkeley Food and Housing Project	14-CA-175	California
California Veterans Assistance Foundation	C15-CA-604A	California
California Veterans Assistance Foundation, Inc.	13-CA-090	California
Carrillo Counseling Services, Inc.	14-CA-163	California
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton	14-CA-177	California
Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County Inc	C15-CA-614A	California
Community Catalysts of California	12-CA-019	California
Community Catalysts of California	C2015-CA-601D	California
East Bay Community Recovery Project	14-CA-164	California
East Oakland Community Project	14-CA-167	California
Emergency Housing Consortium of Santa Clara County	12-CA-010	California
Families in Transition of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	14-CA-169	California
Good Samaritan Shelter	C15-CA-614B	California

Grantee	Grant Number	State
Goodwill Industries of Santa Clara County	12-CA-013	California
Hamilton Family Center	C15-CA-501B	California
HomeFirst Services of Santa Clara County	C15-CA-500A	California
Housing Resource Center of Monterey County	14-CA-161	California
Housing Resource Center of Monterey County	C15-CA-506A	California
InnVision Shelter Network (formerly Shelter Network of San Mateo)	12-CA-015	California
Interfaith Community Services Inc	C15-CA-601B	California
Knowledge, Education for Your Success, Inc.	14-CA-170	California
Lighthouse Treatment Center	14-CA-171	California
LightHouse Treatment Center	C15-CA-608B	California
Mental Health America of Los Angeles	16-CA-005	California
Mental Health America of Los Angeles	C2015-CA-600E	California
New Directions Inc. dba New Directions for Veterans	C2015-CA-600B	California
New Directions, Inc.	12-CA-007	California
PATH	C2015-CA-600C	California
PATH (People Assisting the Homeless)	12-CA-014	California
Shelter, Inc. of Contra Costa County	12-CA-016	California
Sunnyvale Community Services	C2015-CA-500B	California
Swords to Plowshares	C15-CA-501A	California
Swords to Plowshares	C15-CA-502A	California
Swords to Plowshares Veterans Rights Organization	15-CA-091	California
The Salvation Army a California corporation	C2015-CA-600H	California
The Salvation Army, a California Corporation	12-CA-017	California
United States Veterans Initiative	16-CA-008	California
United States Veterans Initiative	C15-CA-606A	California
United States Veterans Initiative	C15-CA-608A	California
United States Veterans Initiative	C15-CA-609A	California
Veterans Resource Centers of America	C2015-CA-504A	California
Veterans Resource Centers of America	C2015-CA-508A	California
Veterans Village of San Diego	C15-CA-601A	California
Victory Village, Inc.	15-CA-322	California
Vietnam Veterans of California, Inc.	16-CA-009	California
Vietnam Veterans of San Diego	14-CA-173	California
Volunteers of America of Greater Sacramento and Northern Nevada, Inc.	12-CA-018	California

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Volunteers of America of Los Angeles	C2015-CA-600A	California
Volunteers of America of Los Angeles Inc	C15-CA-602B	California
Volunteers of America of Los Angeles, Inc.	12-CA-006	California
Volunteers of America of Los Angeles, Inc.	14-CA-176	California
Volunteers of America Southwest	C2015-CA-601B	California
WestCare California	C15-CA-514B	California
WestCare California, Inc.	12-CA-011	California
	55	California Grantees
Denver Options Inc	C15-CO-504A	Colorado
Volunteers of America Colorado Branch	C15-CO-503A	Colorado
	2	Colorado Grantees
Columbus House, Inc.	14-CT-178	Connecticut
Community Renewal Team, Inc.	12-CT-021	Connecticut
The Workplace, Inc.	13-CT-093	Connecticut
	3	Connecticut Grantees
Connections Community Support Programs, Inc.	13-DE-095	Delaware
	1	Delaware Grantee
Friendship Place	C2015-DC-500B	District of Columbia
	1	District of Columbia Grantee
Advocate Program, Inc.	12-FL-024	Florida
American Red Cross, Lee County Chapter	13-FL-097	Florida
Big Bend Homeless Coalition, Inc.	14-FL-179	Florida
Carrfour Supportive Housing Inc	C15-FL-600A	Florida
Carrfour Supportive Housing, Inc.	12-FL-025	Florida
Clark's House, Inc.	14-FL-180	Florida
Community Coalition on Homelessness Corporation	14-FL-182	Florida
Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition Inc	C15-FL-510A	Florida
Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition, Inc.	15-FL-324	Florida
Faith, Hope, Love, Charity, Inc.	13-FL-096	Florida
Family Endeavors, Inc.	14-FL-185	Florida
Homeless Services Network of Central Florida	C15-FL-507A	Florida
Homeless Services Network of Central Florida, Inc.	12-FL-023	Florida
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Sarasota-Manatee, Inc.	12-FL-028	Florida
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.	14-FL-184	Florida

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Salvation Army a Georgia Corporation	C15-FL-504A	Florida
Salvation Army, a Georgia Corporation	13-FL-098	Florida
Society of St Vincent de Paul South Pinellas Inc	C15-FL-502A	Florida
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, South Pinellas	C2015-FL-519A	Florida
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, South Pinellas, Inc.	16-FL-099	Florida
Tampa CrossRoads	C15-FL-501B	Florida
Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, Inc.	14-FL-322	Florida
United Way of Broward County	14-FL-181	Florida
Volunteers of America of Florida	C15-FL-513A	Florida
Volunteers of America of Florida, Inc.	14-FL-187	Florida
	25 Florida Grantees	
Action Ministries, Inc.	13-GA-101	Georgia
Central Savannah River Area Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc. (CSRA EOA)	12-GA-029	Georgia
Decatur Cooperative Ministry, Inc.	13-GA-102	Georgia
Project Community Connections Inc.	C15-GA-500A	Georgia
Project Community Connections Inc.	C15-GA-508A	Georgia
Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc.	C15-GA-500B	Georgia
Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc.	C15-GA-508B	Georgia
Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc.	14-GA-188	Georgia
United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta	14-GA-189	Georgia
Volunteers of America Southeast, Inc.	15-GA-325	Georgia
	10 Georgia Grantees	
WestCare Pacific Islands, Inc.	15-GU-326	Guam
	1 Guam Grantee	
Catholic Charities Hawaii	12-HI-030	Hawaii
Catholic Charities Hawaii	C15-HI-501B	Hawaii
United States Veterans Initiative	14-HI-190	Hawaii
United States Veterans Initiative Barbers Point	C15-HI-501A	Hawaii
	4 Hawaii Grantees	
El-Ada, Inc.	12-ID-032	Idaho
South Central Community Action Partnership, Inc.	14-ID-193	Idaho
	2 Idaho Grantees	
Associates Of Chicago Urban Day School, Inc.	C2015-IL-510F	Illinois
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago	14-IL-198	Illinois
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago	C15-IL-511A	Illinois

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Chestnut Health Systems, Inc.	14-IL-197	Illinois
Featherfist, Inc.	14-IL-194	Illinois
Heartland Human Care Services, Inc.	13-IL-105	Illinois
Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, Inc.	14-IL-196	Illinois
Partners in Community Building, Inc.	14-IL-195	Illinois
Salvation Army, an Illinois Corporation	13-IL-104	Illinois
Thresholds	12-IL-033	Illinois
Volunteers of America of Illinois	12-IL-034	Illinois
Volunteers of America of Illinois	C2015-IL-510C	Illinois
	12	Illinois Grantees
Community Action of Northeast Indiana, Inc.	13-IN-106	Indiana
InteCare, Inc.	14-IN-200	Indiana
Lafayette Transitional Housing Center, Inc.	14-IN-199	Indiana
United Way of Central Indiana	C15-IN-503A	Indiana
United Way of Central Indiana, Inc.	12-IN-035	Indiana
Volunteers of America of Indiana, Inc.	15-IN-201	Indiana
	6	Indiana Grantees
Family Alliance for Veterans of America	14-IA-191	Iowa
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc.	15-IA-192	Iowa
Primary Health Care, Inc.	13-IA-103	Iowa
	3	Iowa Grantees
Catholic Charities, Inc. (Diocese of Wichita)	14-KS-322	Kansas
reStart Inc	C15-KS-501A	Kansas
Salvation Army an Illinois Corporation	C15-KS-501B	Kansas
	3	Kansas Grantees
Kentucky River Foothills Development Council, Inc.	14-KY-204	Kentucky
Volunteers of America of Kentucky	C15-KY-501A	Kentucky
	2	Kentucky Grantees
Elle Foundation	14-LA-207	Louisiana
Hope Center, Inc.	14-LA-205	Louisiana
Start Corporation	14-LA-208	Louisiana
Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans	12-LA-038	Louisiana
Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc.	12-LA-039	Louisiana
	5	Louisiana Grantees
Preble Street	12-ME-043	Maine
	1	Maine Grantee

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Alliance, Inc.	12-MD-042	Maryland
Diakonia Inc.	14-MD-216	Maryland
New Vision House of Hope, Inc.	14-MD-215	Maryland
Project PLASE, Inc.	14-MD-214	Maryland
St. James A.M.E. Zion Church-Zion House	14-MD-217	Maryland
Three Oaks Homeless Shelter, Inc.	13-MD-107	Maryland
	6	Maryland Grantees
Lynn Housing Authority Development Group, Inc.	14-MA-210	Massachusetts
Soldier On Inc	C15-MA-507A	Massachusetts
Veterans Inc	C15-MA-506A	Massachusetts
Veterans Northeast Outreach Center, Inc.	14-MA-209	Massachusetts
Vietnam Veterans Workshop	C15-MA-500A	Massachusetts
Vietnam Veterans Workshop, Inc.	14-MA-211	Massachusetts
Volunteers of America of Massachusetts, Inc.	12-MA-040	Massachusetts
	7	Massachusetts Grantees
Alger Marquette Community Action Board	15-MI-328	Michigan
Bluewater Center for Independent Living	14-MI-218	Michigan
Community Action Agency	14-MI-220	Michigan
Community Rebuilders	14-MI-223	Michigan
Housing Services for Eaton County	14-MI-224	Michigan
Mid Michigan Community Action Agency, Inc.	14-MI-222	Michigan
Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency, Inc.	13-MI-108	Michigan
Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency	14-MI-221	Michigan
Southwest Counseling Solutions	12-MI-045	Michigan
Training & Treatment Innovations, Inc.	14-MI-219	Michigan
Volunteers of America Michigan Inc	C15-MI-501A	Michigan
Volunteers of America Michigan, Inc.	14-MI-226	Michigan
Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency	12-MI-044	Michigan
	13	Michigan Grantees
Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans	12-MN-046	Minnesota
Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans	C15-MN-500A	Minnesota
Tri-County Action Program, Inc.	14-MN-227	Minnesota
	3	Minnesota Grantees
Catholic Charities, Inc. (Diocese of Jackson)	14-MS-234	Mississippi
Hancock Resource Center (HRC)	14-MS-232	Mississippi

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<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Mississippi United to End Homelessness, Inc.	14-MS-231	Mississippi
PTEH, Inc.	15-MS-331	Mississippi
Region XII Commission on Mental Health & Retardation (Pine Belt Mental Health)	13-MS-111	Mississippi
Soldier On of Delaware, Inc.	14-MS-233	Mississippi
	6	Mississippi Grantees
Catholic Charities of Kansas City - St Joseph, Inc.	13-MO-110	Missouri
Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Inc.	15-MO-330	Missouri
Phoenix Programs, Inc.	14-MO-229	Missouri
ReStart Inc	C15-MO-604B	Missouri
Salvation Army an Illinois Corporation	C15-MO-604A	Missouri
St. Patrick Center	16-MO-048	Missouri
The Kitchen, Inc.	14-MO-228	Missouri
Welcome Home, Inc.	13-MO-047	Missouri
	8	Missouri Grantees
Volunteers of America Northern Rockies	13-MT-113	Montana
Volunteers of America Northern Rockies	C2015-MT-500B	Montana
	2	Montana Grantees
Blue Valley Community Action, Inc.	14-NE-239	Nebraska
Central Nebraska Community Services	12-NE-052	Nebraska
Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership	14-NE-238	Nebraska
	3	Nebraska Grantees
HELP Social Service Corporation	14-NV-248	Nevada
HELP Social Service Corporation	C2015-NV-500D	Nevada
Salvation Army, a California Corporation	13-NV-118	Nevada
United States Veterans Initiative	13-NV-056	Nevada
United States Veterans Initiative	C15-NV-500B	Nevada
United States Veterans Initiative	C2015-NV-500E	Nevada
Vietnam Veterans of California, Inc. (Sacramento Veterans Resource)	13-NV-117	Nevada
	7	Nevada Grantees
Harbor Homes, Inc.	13-NH-115	New Hampshire
Southwestern Community Services, Inc.	14-NH-240	New Hampshire
	2	New Hampshire Grantees

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Catholic Charities Dioceses of Camden, Inc.	12-NJ-053	New Jersey
Catholic Family and Community Service	14-NJ-242	New Jersey
Community Hope, Inc.	16-NJ-054	New Jersey
North Hudson Community Action Corporation	14-NJ-243	New Jersey
	4	New Jersey Grantees
Goodwill Industries of New Mexico	12-NM-055	New Mexico
Mesilla Valley Community of Hope	14-NM-247	New Mexico
New Mexico Veterans Integration Centers	14-NM-246	New Mexico
	3	New Mexico Grantees
Albany Housing Coalition, Inc.	14-NY-256	New York
Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc.	15-NY-252	New York
Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse NY	13-NY-119	New York
Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc.	14-NY-254	New York
HELP Social Service Corporation	12-NY-060	New York
HELP Social Service Corporation	C15-NY-600B	New York
Hudson River Housing, Inc.	13-NY-122	New York
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	13-NY-120	New York
PathStone Corporation	14-NY-253	New York
Samaritan Village, Inc.	12-NY-061	New York
Saratoga County Rural Preservation Company, Inc.	14-NY-251	New York
Services for the UnderServed	C15-NY-600A	New York
Services for the UnderServed	C15-NY-603A	New York
Services for the UnderServed, Inc.	16-NY-062	New York
Soldier On of Delaware, Inc.	13-NY-121	New York
The Jericho Project	14-NY-250	New York
Utica Center for Development, Inc.	14-NY-249	New York
Veterans Outreach Center, Inc.	16-NY-057	New York
Volunteers of America-Greater New York, Inc.	14-NY-259	New York
Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (WestCOP)	12-NY-063	New York
	20	New York Grantees
Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry, Inc.	13-NC-114	North Carolina

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Community Link Programs of Travelers Aid Society of Central Carolinas, Inc.	14-NC-236	North Carolina
Family Endeavors	C15-NC-511B	North Carolina
Family Endeavors, Inc.	14-NC-235	North Carolina
Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina	C15-NC-501A	North Carolina
Passage Home Inc.	12-NC-050	North Carolina
United Way of Forsyth County, Inc.	12-NC-049	North Carolina
Volunteers of America Of the Carolinas Inc	C15-NC-507A	North Carolina
Volunteers of America of the Carolinas, Inc.	16-NC-237	North Carolina
	9	North Carolina Grantees
North Dakota Coalition of Homeless People, Inc.	12-ND-051	North Dakota
	1	North Dakota Grantee
Community Action Agency of Columbiana County, Inc.	14-OH-264	Ohio
Community Action Program Corporation of Washington-Morgan Counties, Ohio	14-OH-265	Ohio
Community Support Services, Inc.	14-OH-267	Ohio
Faith Mission, Inc.	14-OH-266	Ohio
Family & Community Services, Inc.	14-OH-262	Ohio
Licking County Coalition for Housing	14-OH-261	Ohio
Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio	15-OH-333	Ohio
Maumee Valley Guidance Center, Inc.	13-OH-124	Ohio
Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc.	12-OH-064	Ohio
Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center Inc	C15-OH-500A	Ohio
Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center, Inc.	13-OH-123	Ohio
Salvation Army, a New York Corporation	14-OH-268	Ohio
St. Vincent de Paul Social Services, Inc.	14-OH-260	Ohio
Talbert House	C15-OH-500B	Ohio
Talbert House, Inc.	14-OH-263	Ohio
Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio	14-OH-269	Ohio
Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio	C15-OH-502B	Ohio
Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio	C15-OH-505A	Ohio

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
	18 Ohio Grantees	
Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa, Inc.	12-OK-065	Oklahoma
Goodwill Industries of Central Oklahoma, Inc.	14-OK-271	Oklahoma
KI BOISE Community Action Foundation Inc.	14-OK-270	Oklahoma
	3 Oklahoma Grantees	
Access	13-OR-128	Oregon
Access	C2015-OR-502B	Oregon
Central Oregon Veteran's Outreach	13-OR-126	Oregon
Community Action Partnership of Oregon	C2015-OR-505A	Oregon
Community Action Team, Inc.	13-OR-125	Oregon
Easter Seals Oregon	14-OR-272	Oregon
St Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County	C15-OR-500A	Oregon
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.	12-OR-066	Oregon
Transition Projects -Impact Northwest -	C15-OR-501A	Oregon
	9 Oregon Grantees	
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Allentown	14-PA-281	Pennsylvania
Commission on Economic Opportunity	15-PA-068	Pennsylvania
Community Action Agency of Delaware County, Inc.	14-PA-276	Pennsylvania
Community Hope, Inc.	14-PA-279	Pennsylvania
Impact Services Corporation	C15-PA-500A	Pennsylvania
Lawrence County Social Services, Inc.	14-PA-277	Pennsylvania
Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living, Inc.	13-PA-131	Pennsylvania
Opportunity House	13-PA-130	Pennsylvania
Project H.O.M.E.	12-PA-067	Pennsylvania
Soldier On of Delaware, Inc.	14-PA-280	Pennsylvania
Utility Emergency Services Fund	14-PA-274	Pennsylvania
Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc.	13-PA-129	Pennsylvania
Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, Inc.	15-PA-334	Pennsylvania
Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania, Inc.	14-PA-282	Pennsylvania
YWCA of Greater Harrisburg	14-PA-273	Pennsylvania
	15 Pennsylvania Grantees	
Casa del Peregrino Aguadilla Inc	C15-PR-503A	Puerto Rico
Casa del Peregrino Aguadilla, Inc.	13-PR-132	Puerto Rico
	2 Puerto Rico Grantees	

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Eastern Carolina Homeless Organization Inc	C15-SC-503A	South Carolina
One80 Place	C2015-SC-502B	South Carolina
One-Eighty Place	12-SC-069	South Carolina
	3	South Carolina Grantees
Cornerstone Rescue Mission	13-SD-136	South Dakota
	1	South Dakota Grantee
Catholic Charities, Inc. (formerly Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Memphis, Inc.)	14-TN-287	Tennessee
Centerstone of Tennessee	C15-TN-504A	Tennessee
Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc.	14-TN-283	Tennessee
Operation Stand Down Tennessee	14-TN-285	Tennessee
Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System	14-TN-284	Tennessee
West Tennessee Legal Services, Inc.	13-TN-139	Tennessee
	6	Tennessee Grantees
American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program Inc	C15-TX-603A	Texas
American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc.	14-TX-292	Texas
Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.	12-TX-076	Texas
Caritas of Austin	12-TX-072	Texas
Catholic Charities Diocese of Fort Worth, Inc.	12-TX-075	Texas
Families in Crisis, Inc.	12-TX-071	Texas
Family Endeavors	C15-TX-601A	Texas
Family Endeavors Inc	C2015-TX-607H	Texas
Family Endeavors, Inc.	16-TX-074	Texas
Front Steps Inc	C15-TX-503A	Texas
Goodwill Industries of Houston, Inc.	13-TX-142	Texas
Neighborhood Centers Inc.	14-TX-290	Texas
Sabine Valley Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Center	14-TX-293	Texas
Salvation Army, a Georgia Corporation	13-TX-140	Texas
Starcare Specialty Health	C2015-TX-607G	Texas
United States Veterans Initiative	14-TX-288	Texas
Volunteers of America Texas	C2015-TX-607B	Texas

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
West Central Texas Regional Foundation	15-TX-141	Texas
	18	Texas Grantees
The Road Home	15-UT-336	Utah
	1	Utah Grantee
Kentucky River Foothills Development Council, Inc.	14-VI-299	Virgin Islands
	1	Virgin Islands Grantee
Office of Human Affairs, Inc.	14-VA-296	Virginia
Quin Rivers, Inc.	16-VA-295	Virginia
Southeastern Tidewater Opportunity Project of Hampton Roads	14-VA-298	Virginia
Total Action Against Poverty in Roanoke Valley	14-VA-294	Virginia
Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation	14-VA-297	Virginia
Virginia Supportive Housing	12-VA-077	Virginia
Volunteers of America Chesapeake	13-VA-144	Virginia
	7	Virginia Grantees
Catholic Community Services of Western Washington	13-WA-146	Washington
Catholic Community Services of Western Washington	C15-WA-503A	Washington
Community Psychiatric Clinic	12-WA-078	Washington
Community Psychiatric Clinic	C15-WA-500A	Washington
Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest	C15-WA-502A	Washington
HopeSource	15-WA-338	Washington
Metropolitan Development Council	14-WA-300	Washington
Metropolitan Development Council	C15-WA-503B	Washington
Metropolitan Development Council	C2015-WA-501E	Washington
Opportunity Council	12-WA-079	Washington
YWCA of Seattle - King County - Snohomish County	13-WA-148	Washington
	11	Washington Grantees
Helping Heroes, Inc.	14-WV-304	West Virginia
Roark-Sullivan Lifeway Center, Inc.	12-WV-081	West Virginia
The Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.	14-WV-303	West Virginia
West Virginia Community Action Partnerships	14-WV-305	West Virginia
	4	West Virginia Grantees

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Center for Veterans Issues Ltd	C15-WI-501A	Wisconsin
Center for Veterans Issues, Limited	12-WI-080	Wisconsin
Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, Inc.	13-WI-151	Wisconsin
Indianhead Community Action Agency	14-WI-302	Wisconsin
Veterans Assistance Foundation, Inc.	13-WI-150	Wisconsin
	5 Wisconsin Grantees	
Appalachian Regional Coalition on Homelessness	13-ZZ-138	Multiple States
Blue Mountain Action Council	13-ZZ-147	Multiple States
Centerstone of Tennessee, Inc.	12-ZZ-070	Multiple States
Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.	15-ZZ-340	Multiple States
Community Action Partnership	14-ZZ-319	Multiple States
Community Action Partnership	14-ZZ-320	Multiple States
Community Action Partnership	14-ZZ-321	Multiple States
Friendship Place	13-ZZ-094	Multiple States
Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest	14-ZZ-301	Multiple States
Healing BALM of Northeast Florida, Inc.	14-ZZ-310	Multiple States
Homeless Veterans Fellowship	14-ZZ-317	Multiple States
Housing Counseling Services	14-ZZ-313	Multiple States
Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc.	12-ZZ-031	Multiple States
Northwest Florida Comprehensive Services for Children, Inc.	12-ZZ-026	Multiple States
Operation Renewed Hope	14-ZZ-318	Multiple States
Operation Stand Down Rhode Island	13-ZZ-133	Multiple States
Rocky Mountain Human Services	12-ZZ-020	Multiple States
Salvation Army, an Illinois Corporation	16-ZZ-036	Multiple States
Soldier On, Inc.	16-ZZ-058	Multiple States
The Alston Wilkes Society (AWS, Alston Wilkes Veterans Home)	13-ZZ-134	Multiple States
Together, Inc. of Metropolitan Omaha	14-ZZ-311	Multiple States
Transition Projects, Inc.	15-ZZ-127	Multiple States
Transitional Living Services, Inc.	14-ZZ-308	Multiple States
United States Veterans Initiative	14-ZZ-314	Multiple States
United Way of Central Alabama	14-ZZ-153	Multiple States
University of Vermont and State Agricultural College	13-ZZ-145	Multiple States
Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, Inc.	16-ZZ-278	Multiple States

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Veterans, Inc.	12-ZZ-041	Multiple States
Volunteers of America Colorado Branch, Inc.	13-ZZ-092	Multiple States
Volunteers of America Mid-States, Inc.	16-ZZ-037	Multiple States
	30	Multiple States Grantees
	378	Total U.S. Grantees

SOURCE: SSVF–Program Office.

Appendix 2. CARF-Accredited SSVF Grantees, September 2017

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Family Endeavors, Inc.	14-AL-155	Alabama
Housing First, Inc	12-AL-002	Alabama
	2	Alabama Grantees
Catholic Social Services	12-AK-001	Alaska
	1	Alaska Grantee
Catholic Charities Community Services	14-AZ-160	Arizona
National Community Health Partners	14-AZ-157	Arizona
Vietnam Veterans of California	14-AZ-158	Arizona
	3	Arizona Grantees
Community Catalysts of California	18-CA-019	California
Goodwill Of Silicon Valley	12-CA-013	California
Homefirst Services	18-CA-344	California
PATH People Assisting the Homeless	12-CA-014	California
Salvation Army a California Corp	12-CA-017	California
United States Veterans Initiative	18-CA-008	California
Vietnam Veterans of California, Inc. (Sacramento Veterans Resource)	18-CA-009	California
Vietnam Veterans of San Diego	18-CA-173	California
Vietnam Veterans Resources of CA	18-CA-414	California
Volunteers of America of Greater Sacramento and Northern Nevada, Inc.	12-CA-018	California
	10	California Grantees

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<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Volunteers of America Colorado Branch, Inc.	18-CO-360	Colorado
	1	Colorado Grantee
Connections Community Support Programs, Inc.	13-DE-095	Delaware
	1	Delaware Grantee
Advocate Program, Inc.	12-FL-024	Florida
Family Endeavors, Inc.	14-FL-185	Florida
JFCS	12-FL-028	Florida
Meridian Behavioral Health	14-FL-184	Florida
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, South Pinellas, Inc.	18-FL-099	Florida
Tampa Crossroads Inc.	18-FL-362	Florida
	6	Florida Grantees
Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc.	14-GA-188	Georgia
Volunteers of America Southeast, Inc.	15-GA-325	Georgia
	2	Georgia Grantees
Catholic Charities Hawaii	18-HI-190	Hawaii
	1	Hawaii Grantee
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago	14-IL-198	Illinois
Featherfist, Inc.	14-IL-194	Illinois
Thresholds	12-IL-033	Illinois
Volunteers of America of Illinois	12-IL-034	Illinois
Volunteers of America of Illinois	18-IL-034	Illinois
	5	Illinois Grantees
Intercare, Inc.	14-IN-200	Indiana
Volunteers of America of Indiana, Inc.	15-IN-201	Indiana
	2	Indiana Grantees

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<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Volunteers Of America Mid-States, Inc.	18-KY-379	Kentucky
	2	Kentucky Grantees
Elle Foundation	14-LA-207	Louisiana
Start Corporation	14-LA-208	Louisiana
Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans	12-LA-038	Louisiana
	3	Louisiana Grantees
Alliance	12-MD-042	Maryland
New Vision House of Hope, Inc.	14-MD-215	Maryland
Project PLASE, Inc.	14-MD-214	Maryland
St. James A.M.E. Zion Church-Zion House	14-MD-217	Maryland
	4	Maryland Grantees
Volunteers of America of Massachusetts, Inc.	12-MA-040	Massachusetts
	1	Massachusetts Grantee
Southwest Counseling Solutions	12-MI-045	Michigan
Training & Treatment Innovations, Inc.	14-MI-219	Michigan
Volunteers of America Michigan, Inc.	14-MI-226	Michigan
Volunteers of America Michigan, Inc.	18-MI-383	Michigan
	4	Michigan Grantees
Catholic Charities Inc.	14-MS-234	Mississippi
Pine Belt	13-MS-111	Mississippi
	2	Mississippi Grantees
Catholic Charities of Kansas City - St Joseph, Inc.	13-MO-110	Missouri
Phoenix Programs, Inc.	14-MO-229	Missouri
St Patrick Center	16-MO-048	Missouri
	3	Missouri Grantees

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<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
Volunteers of America Northern Rockies	13-MT-113	Montana
	1	Montana Grantee
Vietnam Veterans	13-NV-117	Nevada
	1	Nevada Grantee
Harbor Homes, Inc.	13-NH-115	New Hampshire
	1	New Hampshire Grantee
Catholic Family and Community Service	14-NJ-242	New Jersey
Community Hope, Inc.	16-NJ-054	New Jersey
	2	New Jersey Grantees
New Mexico Veterans Integration Centers	14-NM-246	New Mexico
	1	New Mexico Grantee
Services for the UnderServed, Inc.	18-NY-062	New York
Volunteers of America-Greater New York, Inc.	14-NY-259	New York
	2	New York Grantees
Family Endeavors, Inc.	18-NC-235	North Carolina
	1	North Carolina Grantee
Community Support Services, Inc.	14-OH-267	Ohio
Faith Mission, Inc.	14-OH-266	Ohio
Frontline	12-OH-064	Ohio
Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio	15-OH-333	Ohio
Talbert House, Inc.	18-OH-263	Ohio
Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio	14-OH-269	Ohio
Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio	18-OH-397	Ohio
	7	Ohio Grantees

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<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.	14-OK-270	Oklahoma
	1 Oklahoma Grantee	
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Allentown	14-PA-281	Pennsylvania
Commission on Economic Opportunity	15-PA-068	Pennsylvania
Community Hope, Inc.	14-PA-279	Pennsylvania
Project H.O.M.E.	12-PA-067	Pennsylvania
Veterans Multi-Service Center Inc.	15-PA-334	Pennsylvania
	5 Pennsylvania Grantees	
One Eighty Place	12-SC-069	South Carolina
	1 South Carolina Grantee	
Centerstone of Tennessee, Inc.	18-TN-403	Tennessee
Operation Stand Down	14-TN-285	Tennessee
Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System	14-TN-284	Tennessee
	3 Tennessee Grantees	
American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc.	18-TX-292	Texas
Catholic Charities	12-TX-075	Texas
Families in Crisis, Inc.	12-TX-071	Texas
Family Endeavors, Inc.	18-TX-074	Texas
United States Veterans Initiative	14-TX-288	Texas
	5 Texas Grantees	
Community Psychiatric Clinic Inc.	18-WA-078	Washington
Goodwill Industries Of The Inland Northwest	18-WA-408	Washington
Hope Source	15-WA-338	Washington
	3 Washington Grantees	
Volunteers of America Northern Rockies	16-WY-342	Wyoming

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Grant Number</i>	<i>State</i>
	1	Wyoming Grantee
90 Works	12-ZZ-026	Multiple States
90 Works	18-ZZ-438	Multiple States
Centerstone of Tennessee, Inc.	12-ZZ-070	Multiple States
Friendship Place	18-ZZ-094	Multiple States
Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest	14-ZZ-301	Multiple States
Homeless Veterans Fellowship	14-ZZ-317	Multiple States
Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center, Inc.	13-ZZ-123	Multiple States
The Alston Wilkes Society (AWS, Alston Wilkes Veterans Home)	13-ZZ-134	Multiple States
Transitional Living Services, Inc.	14-ZZ-308	Multiple States
United Way of Central Alabama	14-ZZ-153	Multiple States
Veterans Inc.	12-ZZ-041	Multiple States
Veterans Multi-Service Center Inc.	16-ZZ-278	Multiple States
Volunteers of America Colorado Branch, Inc.	13-ZZ-092	Multiple States
Volunteers Of America Inc.	16-ZZ-037	Multiple States
Volunteers of America Northern Rockies	18-ZZ-113	Multiple States
	15	Multiple States Grantees
	102	Total U.S. Grantees

SOURCE: SSVF–Program Office.

Appendix 3. Data Sources

SSVF Program Data Sources

1. HMIS Repository data
2. Grantee financial reports
3. Participant satisfaction surveys
4. HOMES
5. Veterans Health Administration Support Service Center, Office of Information and Analytics

Information for this report was obtained through the SSVF data repository hosted by VA. The repository stores data on program participants collected and entered by grantees into local HMIS. Data are then uploaded from local HMIS to the data repository. This report also includes aggregated data from grantee quarterly reports submitted to VA, and aggregated responses to program participant satisfaction surveys completed by SSVF participants nationwide and submitted to VA.

HOMES is an administrative database that tracks use of VA specialized homelessness programs, to assess the housing outcomes of Veterans served by SSVF following their exit from the program.

Other Data Sources

1. Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)
 - a. 2016 AHAR: Part 1 – PIT Estimates of Homelessness:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5178/2016-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness/>
 - b. 2016 AHAR: Part 2 – Estimates of Homelessness in the U.S.:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/hdx/guides/ahar/>
2. VA Office of the Actuary
 - a. FY 2016 Datasets: Age/Gender (Living) and Period Served (Living):
http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp
3. United States Census Bureau
 - a. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2016 (NST-EST2016-01), 2016.
<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2016/demo/popest/nation-total.html>

- b. American Community Survey, 2012, 1-year estimates: Age by Veteran Status by Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Disability Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over (B21007).
<https://factfinder.census.gov/>
- c. American Community Survey, 2015, 1-year estimates: Age by Veteran Status by Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Disability Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over (B21007).
<https://factfinder.census.gov/>

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Further Information

For general information about the SSVF program, such as federal program rules, NOFA materials, grantee lists, and reports, see the SSVF landing page at:

<http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp>.

For SSVF grantees seeking to develop, implement, and improve their program, VA has established the [SSVF University](#) as an online resource. The site offers:

- ***Community coordination and planning tools***, such as federal guidance and tools on documenting and planning to end Veteran homelessness, a gaps analysis tool, resource trackers, and tools for updating community plans to end Veteran homelessness and align SSVF resources.
- ***User guides and staff development materials***, including, guides that outline key decisions and effective practices for four key staffing types, and staff orientation and development resources.
- ***Practice areas and resources information*** about the practice of delivering effective and efficient homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assistance for Veterans and their families. There are five Practice Areas, for each of which the site offers:
 - SSVF practice standards
 - Guidance on key elements of effective practices
 - Training resources, including links to relevant training produced by VA, HUD, and other entities
 - Toolkits with links to forms, templates, checklists, etc., that can be adapted or adopted by rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention programs
- ***Dynamic libraries***, including, Veterans and homelessness research, SSVF webinars and program updates, and SSVF Launch and Regional meeting materials.